

stop sequestration and despite Collins' best intentions, left the door open to what Mikulski feared would be simply another eight month CR after that.

But take away gender, this Mikulski-Murray alliance is really a return to past practice for the Senate.

For most of its history, under Republicans or Democrats, the Senate Budget Committee has been led by chairs bred in Appropriations. Think back to Sens. Pete Domenici (R-N.M.), Lawton Chiles (D-Fla.) Jim Sasser (D-Tenn.) or Judd Gregg (R-N.H.).

In this context, the long tenure of Conrad, a product of the Senate Finance Committee, was more the exception than the rule—now restored by the arrival of Murray.

"She actually understands what we do and what we need to do to do our job," Mikulski said.

The flip side of this coin is that Mikulski must also help Murray do her job on Budget. Time and again through Senate history, budget resolution votes have been decided by Appropriations members falling in line—or crossing the aisle—in the name of moving ahead. If Murray gets a deal with House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), Mikulski's support will be needed to sell it to the Senate.

Two very different pressure points are available to her.

First are the Republicans with whom Mikulski has worked on Appropriations and have their own vested interests in a budget deal. Second are Democratic liberals where Mikulski can provide political cover on tough votes given her progressive credentials and history alongside the late Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.).

Alabama Sen. Richard Shelby, the ranking Republican on Appropriations, was still a Democrat in the House in the 80's when he and Mikulski served together on the Energy and Commerce Committee. They came over together to the Senate in 1986 and are their own Mutt-and-Jeff pair, taking alternative turns running the Commerce, Justice and Science subcommittee.

"We've got a history," Shelby said. "We both would like a [topline] number being appropriators. When I was down at the White House with the president, I told him the reason we're here mainly is because we've had an appropriations breakdown."

Given Republican politics, Mikulski knows that Shelby can't be as outspoken as she is for a budget deal. But she was worked to enlist him and House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers (R-Ky.) to keep the pressure on for a swift conclusion to the budget talks.

"I asked him if he would encourage the timeline of sooner rather than later," Mikulski said of Shelby. In the same vein, she signed onto a recent letter with Rogers that urged negotiators to have an answer by Thanksgiving—leaving time for Appropriations to have an omnibus bill in place by early January.

"What [Rogers] and I share is sequester," Mikulski said. "If we go to sequester, we're cooked."

But Ryan will want Democratic pain to get to a deal. And the day may come when Mikulski has to choose between more chaos for her committee or a compromise that entails savings from sensitive areas like Medicare or federal workers.

"I've got to see what's exhausted before I go down that road," she says, quickly ducking any commitment. "Do you mean to tell me there is not one loophole [Republicans] are willing to close?"

"I'm convinced that Patty can still have room for a deal . . . I don't want to speculate on the array of things that she has to take to the table. It's premature."

Kennedy's memory is important here. Mikulski has no pretensions of having the same status as her late friend. But their history is rich, and just as Kennedy could be a swing vote for the left, she may also have to play that role.

At the 1980 Democratic convention—having lost the nomination battle to President Jimmy Carter—Kennedy tapped Mikulski, then a young congresswoman, to introduce him before his "Dream Shall Never Die" speech.

"You know what: I kept the dress," Mikulski said. "I told him I would keep it until he was president. It became a standard joke. I told him I looked at it longingly."

"And he said 'Because you would like to see me as president?'" Mikulski said. "And I said, 'No cause I want to be able to fit into the damn thing.'"

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, Congress is facing two fast-approaching budget deadlines: December 13 for a budget deal and January 15 for a funding bill to avert another government shutdown. Given the complexity of the issues, the brief window of opportunity, and the upcoming holiday season, meeting those deadlines will be a challenge. But it is a challenge Congress must meet. If we don't get a budget deal, we don't get a budget topline; we don't get any relief from sequestration; we can't write the 2014 appropriations bills, and we default to a year-long CR. That is a nightmare scenario.

A long-term CR is the worst way to fund the government. It merely recycles last year's funding levels to meet this year's funding priorities. That makes as much sense as using last year's canceled checks to pay this year's bills.

The military construction Program is the poster child for everything that is wrong with a CR. The 2014 Senate MILCON-VA bill includes \$4.8 billion for the construction of hundreds of new-start MilCon projects throughout the United States. The 2013 bill—which sets the funding levels for the CR—funded a totally different set of MILCON projects, and the funding does not align with the 2014 program.

For example, the Army needs $\frac{1}{2}$ billion less for MILCON in 2014, and the Air Force needs \$800 million more. A CR written at 2013 levels would not reflect those requirements, meaning the Air Force would come up short while the Army would be awash in MILCON dollars it does not need. This would be a devastating blow for the Air Force because it took a pause in its MILCON Program last year. As a result, a CR at the 2013 level would fund less than 30 percent of the 2014 Air Force MILCON Program.

All of which could be moot because a CR also prohibits new starts. Without relief from that provision, 96 percent of the major MILCON Program would be on hold.

The MILCON bill funds mission-critical training and operational facilities, schools, hospitals, troop and family housing, and myriad other programs crucial to the work and well-being of our service members and their fami-

lies. The 2014 Senate bill funds more than 200 new major MILCON projects in 39 States. And that does not include overseas MILCON or follow-on phases of ongoing projects.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans across the Nation go to work every day for contractors building MILCON projects. Government construction—whether it be MILCON, VA hospitals and clinics, or Federal roads, highways and bridges—is a major job generator. The Association of General Contractors estimates that every \$1 billion in non-residential construction generates 28,500 jobs.

For the 2014 slate of major MILCON projects alone, that amounts to nearly 137,000 new jobs. Multiply that by the annual Federal Government investment in nationwide construction projects, and it is clear that a robust government construction program is a wise economic investment on all fronts.

Even if the new-start prohibition were lifted, the 2014 sequester remains a threat to the military construction program. DOD estimates that a second round of sequestration could cost the MILCON Program as much as \$1 billion, of which about half would come from new major construction projects. Under another round of sequestration, project deferrals or cancellations are almost guaranteed. The result would be a disruption of the MILCON Program and possibly thousands of lost job opportunities.

As chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, I am well aware of the Nation's precarious economic recovery. As an appropriator, I am equally aware of the need to adequately fund both Defense and domestic government programs.

The path to responsible government funding requires both revenue increases, through such means as closing tax loopholes and sensible spending cuts. Spending cuts alone cannot close the gap without crippling the economy.

Mr. President, Congress has a responsibility to govern. In the coming weeks, we must strive to achieve at minimum a 2-year budget deal, cancel sequestration for at least 2 years, and produce a governmentwide funding bill—what is commonly known as an omnibus by January 15. With the cooperation of all parties, that is an achievable goal. The American people deserve—and expect—no less.

AFRICAN WILDLIFE POACHING CRISIS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it was not very long ago that it seemed as if the ivory trade was on the decline and that the survival of African elephants in the wild was assured. In recent years, we have seen that confidence shattered, as thousands of these magnificent animals have been systematically killed for their tusks. Similarly, the rhinoceros, already endangered, is now in great jeopardy due to the voracious appetite in China and elsewhere

in Asia for concoctions manufactured from their horn which can fetch thousands of dollars per ounce.

Large-scale poaching of these and other wildlife species has become endemic in sub-Saharan Africa. It is estimated that up to 17,000 African elephants have been killed for their tusks since 2011, and just last month poachers used cyanide to poison 300 elephants in Zimbabwe. It was only a couple of years ago that we saw the extinction of the western black rhinoceros, another victim of rampant poaching. This devastating slaughter should serve as a deafening wake-up call to the world. It has implications that extend far beyond wildlife conservation.

The international ban on ivory sales enacted in 1989 had a positive, albeit temporary impact on the protection of elephant and rhinoceros populations, but it has since spawned a black market industry in wildlife and wildlife parts. As I mentioned, some of the market is in carved ivory products and potions prized in Asia for their supposed medicinal or other properties. But this illicit revenue is increasingly being used to fund violent extremist groups in the subcontinent. The profits from this trade fuels trafficking in weapons, drugs, and humans, as well as terrorism in the Horn of Africa, the Sahel, and beyond.

Vermonters take pride in being well informed about international affairs, as well as on the impact that we as individuals have on the world we live in. The people of my State know that many of the products we buy, services we support, and actions we take have global implications, positive and negative. That is why it was no surprise when more than 300 people gathered last month in the University of Vermont's Ira Allen Chapel to view the National Geographic documentary "Battle for the Elephants" and discuss the grave threat that poaching poses to the world's elephant population. The consensus was that while the outlook is ominous, the fact that people are increasingly focused on this crisis is reason for hope that these animals can be saved. Vermont's own Laurel Neme, a renowned environment and wildlife policy expert, noted that technological advancements, especially in regards to tracing the origins of illegal ivory, have made encouraging strides.

The United States has moral as well as strategic interests in combatting trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products. As I have mentioned, it is not only decimating elephant and rhinoceros populations it is also funding traffickers and terrorist groups. For these reasons, the Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, of which I am chairman, included \$45 million for fiscal year 2014 to combat wildlife poaching and trafficking, including by training and supporting African park rangers and other law enforcement officials. The Obama administration has also recognized the need to address this crisis more force-

fully and is allocating additional resources.

Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the African countries to protect and conserve their wildlife populations. But they cannot do it alone. It is imperative that we work with them and other donor governments and organizations to marshal the resources to combat the black market trade in wildlife.

SUPREME COURT POLICE AUTHORITY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, since the early 1980s, Congress has provided legislative authority for Supreme Court Police to protect Supreme Court Justices, their employees, and guests when they leave the Supreme Court grounds. That authority is set to expire at the end of next month and merits extension. The House voted by an overwhelming majority of 399 to 3 to pass a bipartisan bill which would extend this authority through 2019. All Democrats have cleared this bill for passage. I urge the minority to do the same so the Senate may swiftly pass this extension to ensure the continued safety of our Supreme Court Justices and their employees.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN WOOD

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to an American hero who is also a proud and honored Kentuckian. Mr. John Wood of Glasgow, KY, will be honored this month for his service in uniform to our country. Mr. Wood served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1941 to 1947, was present for the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, and was there at the Battle of Midway Island just months after America entered World War II.

After his military service, Mr. Wood settled in Glasgow, where he worked as a radio broadcast engineer from 1949 to 1990. He is a true legend from the Greatest Generation who still has much to teach us younger folks.

This November 18, Mr. Wood will be honored at Glasgow City Hall. Also, local officials in Glasgow, Cave City, and Barren County will join with local veterans' organizations in Kentucky to proclaim November 20 as "John Wood Day" in Barren County. Coincidentally, on November 20, Mr. Wood will also turn 93 years old. I cannot think of a better tribute to this fine man's service than to recognize him on his birthday.

My fellow Kentuckians can turn out to see Mr. Wood when he serves as the Grand Marshal for the Cave City Christmas Parade later this year, and also as a featured guest in the Glasgow Christmas Parade. These will be wonderful community events to bring Kentuckians together to honor John Wood's service and to say thank you to all veterans in the Christmas spirit.

I know I speak for my colleagues in the U.S. Senate when I express gratitude to Mr. John Wood for his service

to our great Nation. Kentucky is proud to have him in our midst. I want to wish him a very happy birthday, a happy John Wood Day, and a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Recently an article appeared in a Kentucky publication, the Sanford Herald, highlighting Mr. Wood's life of service. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Sanford Herald, November 9, 2013]

MARINE VET RECOUNTS PEARL HARBOR,
MIDWAY

JOHN E. WOOD REMEMBERS HIS SERVICE IN THE
PACIFIC

(By Anna Johnson)

SANFORD.—When the first Imperial Japanese plane burst into a ball of fire, John E. Wood thought he saw something else fall toward the small Hawaiian island where he was stationed in 1942.

"I saw something drop from the plane," Wood said. "I thought at first he had bailed out. A little closer you could tell it wasn't the pilot. It was a silver bomb."

It was just a few seconds later when the bombs fell in unison toward the Marine Corps 6th Defense Battalion, destroying plane hangars, power stations, and a cluster of above-ground fuel tanks near Wood.

"I got half nauseated from the smoke and all of those guns being fired," Wood said. "There were fuel tanks burning. The island was just, almost, engulfed with smoke. And then the planes dropped all their bombs."

Wood, a former Lee County resident, manned a .50-caliber machine gun—"They were airplane guns, but they had mounts so they could rotate"—when the Imperial Japanese planes began to fly toward and over Midway Atoll on June 4, 1942.

"We could see them off in the distance," Wood said. "Two or three planes would go down, a plume of smoke behind them. Off the shore away, you'd see a splash when one would go down. We were ordered to fire when they got in range."

One plane, tilting from damage to its left tail, came into close range near Wood, giving them a close encounter with the pilot.

"He was dressed up," Wood said. "He had a white shirt and black coat and black tie. The gloves, he had white gloves on his hands. Every gun there on through the center of the island opened up on him. He was shot down."

The Battle of Midway, a decisive victory for the United States and a turning point in the Pacific theater during World War II, came just six months after the attacks on Pearl Harbor—a battle Wood witnessed, rifle in hand.

IT WAS SOMETHING TO DO FOR A LIVELIHOOD

Wood, 92, was born in Montgomery County, near Troy. He grew up in Lee County with his parents, John Lee Wood and Nancy Phillips Wood, and two brothers, Malphus and Thomas.

"My first school was the old McIver Street School, and Edna St. Clair was my teacher," he said. "When I was finished over at McIver Street, I started over at the high school and that was in 1934."

Wood spent two years in the Civilian Conservation Corps—a public-relief program meant to relieve families who faced difficulties during the Great Depression—before enlisting in the Marine Corps in 1941.

"I really didn't have anything else to do at the time," he said. "At the time I enlisted, it was something to do for a livelihood. And