

differences that have been reconciled in favor of the city with respect to the amount of funds that will be available and to other matters.

So I am hopeful that we will be able to take this bill up. It is ready to go. We are ready to act on it now and we could have this down to the President for his signature this afternoon if and when it is brought up there is no objection, and I hope that would be the case.

Mr. President, I just hope that everybody is aware of the serious problem we are dealing with and that any attempt to forestall this would imperil people and I hope that will not occur.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. BURNS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, last night the House of Representatives passed and sent to the Senate the conference report on military construction, and that bill, too, is at the desk to be considered today. We have worked very, very hard with both sides of the aisle to work out our differences—and sometimes on the same side of the aisle.

I applaud my good friend from Vermont, with whom I used to serve on D.C. Appropriations, on the work they have done on the D.C. appropriations bill. And the work that Senator BOND has done in his committee as far as VA-HUD.

We have worked very hard, too, on the thrust of military construction in this particular year, not only dealing with less dollars but also dealing with some very important items which have always been put on the shelf. One of them is the environment because of the Base Closure and Realignment Commission, and the other one is family housing and support services for families that serve this country on our posts around the world.

This bill provides the necessary funding for the planning, the design, the construction, the alteration, and the improvement of military facilities around the world, and included in that, of course, is the appropriation that keeps us strong, the NATO Security Investment Program. It also provides the funding to implement base closures and realignment as called for by law.

Again, let me emphasize that in this bill there is included child development centers. We worry about children. We hear speeches made about children. Repairs are needed also for the damage that was done by Hurricane Bertha. In this bill is funding for family support centers on our bases and environmental compliance projects. I think one of the most important parts of the funding in this bill is environmental cleanup when these bases are closed and, of course, taking new actions where active bases are still in operation; hospitals, public safety such as fire stations.

There is \$1.2 billion for the implementation of BRAC, \$4 billion for family housing. Out of a \$9 billion appropriation, \$4 billion will be spent on families and family housing to improve the life of our military people. Just to give you an idea on that: Yuma Marine Air Station in Yuma, AR; Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base, 202 units, spending \$29 million; Lenmoore Naval Air Station in California; Florida, Mayport Naval Station; in Hawaii, almost \$60 million being spent for family support and housing; in Maryland, just outside of Washington here, the Naval Testing Center at Patuxent River; Camp Lejeune, community centers; family centers in Texas, Corpus Christi Naval Complex; Kingsville Naval Air Station; in Virginia, Chesapeake, Wallops Island; State of Washington, at Bangor Naval Submarine Base, and Everett Naval Air Station, Puget Sound.

The list goes on of those projects that are started or being planned and started, and all of them in support of families that serve this country. One has to remember that they, too, have to live, and we have started a new project, the Secretary of Defense working with the corporate sector in partnership for private housing off base, which is a new approach. By the way, there is funding in the bill for his program. There is certain types of community impact assistance that has to be provided for our military who face the loss of a sale of private residences due to installation realignments and due to some closures.

So, Mr. President, that is what is in limbo here whenever we start talking about gumming up the process. Here is a bill that we have worked very hard to overcome the objections on both sides of the aisle, to make it through not only committee, subcommittee and full committee and, yes, on the floor to pass a bill, send it to the House and then conference and bring it back and it is ready to pass this body because the House passed it last night and it is ready to be sent to the President for his signature to implement what we think is very important in support of our military families around the globe.

So, I ask, if we could work out this so-called flap and get the process back on the move again, lay aside some of our emotions and do the right thing and allow us to bring the conference report of the military construction to this floor, pass it, and let us send it to the President.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

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

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I think we had some good discussion this morning and I believe we made some progress in talking to Senators on both sides of the aisle, working out problems.

I know several Senators are going to need an opportunity to talk to the minority leader. I know the minority whip will be doing that here in a few minutes. So, hopefully, after those conversations we can get an understanding of how we can move on these very important issues. So, at this time, rather than just keeping the Senate here, what I propose to do is to have the Senate stand in recess until 2:30 p.m., at which time I will again enter into a colloquy with the Senator from Texas and the Senator from New Jersey about how we will deal with the stalking issue and the Lautenberg amendment; and then I would move to get unanimous-consent agreement on Judge Montgomery; and then I would move the CFTC nominees, and then the military nominations, including the new Chief of Naval Operations, which is needed very badly to be on duty. Then I would move to take up the health care issue.

In the meantime, I understand there will be some efforts made to deal with the drug patent issue in a way that, hopefully, is acceptable. And then we would go to the small business tax relief and minimum wage issue, and the safe drinking water conference report; all three of those conference reports.

I would also go to the DOD authorization and I would—of course, we would need to talk to the minority leader about exactly how we deal with that.

I would also attempt to move the three noncontroversial, universally supported military construction appropriations, legislative appropriations and D.C. appropriations. If we could get those issues worked out and completed, we would have made tremendous achievement here today.

If at 2:30 we cannot get an agreement on these, or an agreement on a package of these items, it would be my intent to take the Senate out for the balance of the day and come back tomorrow morning. I see no sense in standing around here waiting or going in and out on recess. So we will have 2½ hours now in which we can consider the situation, decide if we want to pass health insurance reform that so many people labored so hard on, that every voting representative in the House but two voted for just yesterday, the small business tax relief, minimum wage—everybody wants to get this done—and the safe drinking water. Everybody wants these three bills done.

I understand the White House is very anxious for us to get that done. There is no reason why we should not do these three appropriations conference reports. So we will have some time here to work through that and have a chance to talk to the minority leader. I hope to hear from him in the next hour or two. And we will see if we can