

bill of the Senate Armed Services Committee which proudly bears his name as chairman.

Let me address two specifics. I was concerned about references to the submarine panel. This was not an idea that originated in the Senate. Together with Senator LIEBERMAN, Senator ROBB, and Senator COHEN, I worked on the provisions relating to submarines in this bill and we recognize there was no need for this panel. But the House did. The House even wanted stronger measures.

Negotiations related to submarines were perhaps one of the most difficult part of the negotiations with the House of Representatives and the Senate. Out of it came the concept to have a panel to consist of three members from each committee, appointed by their respective chairmen on a bipartisan basis and reporting back to their respective committees. I, therefore, do not believe there is any invasion of the authority of the two committees on the armed services in the two bodies. In fact, I view some positive aspects in this concept. Because, as one looks at the former Soviet Union today, and most particularly Russia, that is where a disproportionate amount of their annual investment in national security goes—right into research and development and production of first-line submarines, submarines that challenge our finest submarines in the seven seas of the world today.

So I think every bit of intellect, every bit of wisdom that we can incorporate on behalf of our Nation into future submarine production is time and effort well spent. That, I think, will be a positive contribution. I hope I will be considered to be a part of this special panel on submarines, since in my State we are proud to have a shipyard which for many years has built some of the finest submarines, not only for our Navy, but anywhere in the world.

Then, Mr. President, turning to a second item, the Guard and Reserve, this has been a debate through the years. The Senator from Michigan tried, I think, to convince our committee—subsequently tried to convince the floor—of his desire to have a different approach to the Guard and Reserve. He is a very valued member of our committee. He understands the subject of the Guard and Reserve. And, like so many of us, we express our best judgment and seek to try to be convincing among our colleagues. He did that on two occasions and the majority of the Senate in the committee and on the floor decided on a different means to address the Guard and Reserve. So the battle was fought. The battle was decided. We go on with our business.

Of course, he has a perfect right to come and express such disappointment as may remain on this subject. But nevertheless, we have a solid provision in this bill for the Guard and Reserve and it reflects the majority views of the Armed Services Committee as well as the Senate as a whole.

These are just two examples of where there are differences between Members on the other side of the aisle and Members on this side, but I plead with my colleagues to think, in the spirit of reconciliation, as we do so frequently in this Chamber, and particularly as it relates to the men and women of the Armed Forces and sending that message. When, from the Chair, that vote is announced, we want to send a positive message all across the world and on the high seas. I urge my colleagues to support this conference report.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I commend the able Senator from Virginia for the excellent remarks he has made on this bill. The Senator from Virginia was once Secretary of the Navy. He served in the Marines. He is a valuable member of the Armed Services Committee. He has rendered long service here and with great distinction to country and I want to commend him.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank my distinguished senior colleague. My career both in the Senate and, indeed, in the uniform of the United States, falls far short of that of the senior Senator from South Carolina.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 12:30 having arrived, the Senate will now stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, at 12:38 p.m., the Senate recessed until 2:15 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. GRAMS).

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996—CONFERENCE REPORT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the conference report.

Mr. EXON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I believe 15 minutes of time has been allotted to the Senator from Nebraska under the unanimous-consent request. Is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. EXON. I will take that time at this moment.

Mr. President, if the average American was to read the 1996 Defense Authorization Act conference report now before the Senate, he or she might believe that there was a mistake in the printing of the bill's title. The content of the conference agreement, the rhetoric in the report, and the pork add-ons contained in the legislation are more in keeping with the cold war environment of 1986, not the post-cold-war world of 1996.

I voted against the Senate version of the authorization bill earlier this year based on my belief that the \$7 billion increase in spending authority contained in the bill was extravagant and that the bill's spending priorities and legislative restrictions were harmful, yes harmful, to our national security interests. I am dismayed to report that the conference report is even more objectionable on these counts than the Senate-passed version. As a result, I will vote against the National Defense authorization conference report for the first time in my 17 years as a U.S. Senator, a decision I do not come to lightly.

With very little participation solicited from the minority, the majority in the Senate and House have finally reached an agreement on a bill that will be greeted with cheers from the multibillion-dollar defense corporations in America. At a time when much of the Federal Government has run out of money and is shut down, at a time when the Congress is cutting domestic programs to the bone and the majority party is trying to push through an unwise \$245 billion tax cut, we are considering a bill that adds \$7.1 billion to the defense budget that the President did not ask for and our military leaders do not want.

This bill writes checks for unneeded weapons systems that will have defense corporations popping champagne corks around the country. Christmas has indeed come early for these multibillion-dollar corporations, and their gifts are beyond their wildest hopes. I implore every American that is asked to do with less this coming year due to the Republican budget-cutting ax to keep in mind the following glittering, gilded ornaments hung with care by the majority on the defense corporate tree:

\$700 million in unrequested funds for an accelerated star wars program, a mere down payment on a system which has already cost the American taxpayers \$35 billion and will likely cost another \$48 billion to build;

\$493 million in unrequested funds to restart the B-2 bomber program beyond the 20 planes already bought, again a mere down payment on a \$30 billion procurement plan;

\$23 million in unrequested funds for 4 additional medium range army aircraft;

\$76 million in unrequested funds for Longbow helicopter modifications;

\$140 million in unrequested funds for Kiowa helicopter modifications;

\$32 million in unrequested funds for ground support avionics;

\$37 million in unrequested funds to buy 750 additional Hellfire missiles;

\$36 million in unrequested funds to buy 450 additional Javelin missiles;

\$43 million in unrequested funds to buy 1,500 additional MLRS missiles;

\$50 million in unrequested funds to buy MLRS launchers;

\$18 million in unrequested funds to buy 29 additional Army tactical missiles;