

VOTE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on S. 1745, the Department of Defense authorization bill, shall be brought to a close? The yeas and nays are required. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] is necessarily absent.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. BUMPERS] is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 170 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Abraham	Frist	Murkowski
Ashcroft	Gorton	Nickles
Bennett	Gramm	Pell
Bond	Grams	Pressler
Brown	Grassley	Roth
Burns	Gregg	Santorum
Campbell	Hatch	Shelby
Chafee	Hatfield	Simpson
Coats	Hutchison	Smith
Cochran	Inhofe	Snowe
Cohen	Jeffords	Specter
Coverdell	Kassebaum	Stevens
Craig	Kempthorne	Thomas
D'Amato	Kyl	Thompson
DeWine	Lott	Thurmond
Domenici	Mack	Warner
Faircloth	McCain	
Frahm	McConnell	

NAYS—46

Akaka	Ford	Lugar
Baucus	Glenn	Mikulski
Biden	Graham	Moseley-Braun
Bingaman	Harkin	Moynihan
Boxer	Hefflin	Murray
Bradley	Hollings	Nunn
Breaux	Inouye	Pryor
Bryan	Johnston	Reid
Byrd	Kennedy	Robb
Conrad	Kerrey	Rockefeller
Daschle	Kerry	Sarbanes
Dodd	Kohl	Simon
Dorgan	Lautenberg	Wellstone
Exon	Leahy	Wyden
Feingold	Levin	
Feinstein	Lieberman	

NOT VOTING—2

Bumpers Helms

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 46. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I call for order in the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will come to order.

The Senator from South Carolina is recognized.

TERRORIST ACT AGAINST UNITED STATES FORCES SERVING IN SAUDI ARABIA

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, on behalf of all Americans I wish to express my deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of our servicemembers involved in yesterday's tragic terrorist attack in Saudi Arabia. While the situation is still developing, we know that 19 U.S. service personnel

were killed, 80 are hospitalized, of which 60 are in critical condition.

Our servicemembers in Saudi Arabia are stationed there to keep a steady and keen vigilance against the very threat to peace to which they were victims. Most of these U.S. servicemembers are performing daily missions and maintaining a deterrence against longstanding and well-known threats in the Persian Gulf.

This unfortunate act of cowardly terrorism is against all who have an interest in peace. Our British, French, and Saudi allies apparently were also targets of this senseless act.

The Senate is now deliberating on important legislation which affects the brave American servicemembers in Saudi Arabia, and all our forces worldwide. In doing this very important business, we should be mindful of what happened in Saudi Arabia last night. Last night's tragedy is another reminder that the absence of war does not mean that the world is at peace. Our soldiers, sailors, and airmen stand at the ready under the constant threat of violence. This is the world we live in today, in which the United States must continue to show leadership and determination.

Our job in the Senate now is to be unexceptionally serious about the Defense authorization bill which is now under consideration. The American people, our Government, and the U.S. Senate are duty-bound to provide the very best for those in our Armed Forces who knowingly stand in harm's way for us.

We can not fall short in supporting our men and women in uniform and their families, insuring the best possible benefits, and providing the best equipment for the dangerous missions in a still very dangerous world.

Mr. NUNN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COVERDELL). The Chair recognizes the Senator from Georgia.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I strongly endorse the remarks of Chairman THURMOND in the great sympathy that we express in this Chamber on both sides of the aisle to the service people involved in this tragedy in Saudi Arabia, and I certainly endorse President Clinton's strong statement of determination to find the perpetrators of this act and bring them to justice. I am confident that the Saudi Arabian Government has the same view.

This is a constant reminder of the kind of dangers and risks that our military personnel are under everywhere in the world. We are in a different era now. We are not in an era where we are threatened by massive annihilation from nuclear war, but we are in an unstable era where terrorism rears its ugly head in unexpected places. All of our military forces abroad and their families are under this kind of risk.

So as we join the families and express our great sympathy to those families, I think we ought to bear in mind that all of our military personnel all over the

world are basically risking their own lives to defend this great Nation.

I am informed there are 19 dead, 80 hospitalized, and 60 seriously wounded. I am also informed that they have not completed the identification of the remains and that the families have not yet been notified. Certainly that will be done in a timely fashion as quickly as they possibly can. The Air Force is working on that.

We sent medivac teams there with our aircraft. We sent all of the personnel that we can, and of course the President announced last night that we are sending FBI agents to help find the perpetrators of this terrible tragedy.

Mr. President, I am also informed that the families will begin being notified sometime around noon today. Certainly I know that there are a lot of anxious families in the Air Force community and military community all over the country.

So I join Senator THURMOND in expressing great sympathy to the families and absolute determination to prevent this kind of tragedy from recurring in every way that we possibly can.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, this is the fifth day of debate on S. 1745.

I think it is appropriate to give the Senate another update—a very brief one—this morning on where we have been, and more importantly where we are going on this important measure.

Thus far, we have debated this bill for almost 28 hours. We have disposed of 39 amendments. I will state, as I did yesterday, that we have not been keeping track of the exact amount of time consumed by consideration of the non-relevant amendments offered thus far to our bill. But I am able to state that the Senate has spent too much time talking about things that are not relevant to this defense bill, that are not in our jurisdiction, would not be in the jurisdiction of the conference, would require outside conferees if they are put on this bill, and would be very unlikely to receive conference approval and be signed into law.

So we are basically using our time to debate amendments that are not going anywhere in the long run, and we are doing that at the expense of completing this bill this week.

Yesterday, we were running along at a pretty good clip. We completed a number of defense amendments. We had a number of other people ready to present amendments and were working for a unanimous consent agreement to have a finite list of amendments in order. Then we had another legislative hurdle which was put in our way; the fourth nonrelevant amendment to our bill; this one on the matter of FBI files. This effectively shut us down for the rest of the day, a situation that I know disappointed the chairman and disappointed me, as well as other committee members.