

I have an amendment to make available \$11.5 million for B-52 bomber modifications. I have an amendment regarding the CAMP Program and an amendment to provide moneys for P-3 aircraft personnel offset by a reduction in defense health and also provides additional money for B-52 squadron personnel. We have a series of other amendments that we are in the process of clearing. I tell the Senate that there are some 20 other amendments ready to go to be debated now. We have an additional series here that I believe will be cleared, and the amendment that is pending has been cleared. I hope we will be able to proceed with those. It does seem to me however, it is just an exercise in futility to have a filibuster on a defense bill. I intend to do what I can to thwart that.

Mr. President, in my judgment, this bill is the key to our being able to complete action on appropriations bills and get the whole subject cleared by the end of the fiscal year. My good friend and our chairman, Senator HATFIELD, is retiring this year. I want to do my best to assure that the key bills that we have, all the appropriations bills, are sent to conference before the August recess.

In my judgment, if we have to give up the August recess to do that, we should do it. If we are going to have filibusters on every bill, then so be it. We will have to break them. It seems this is an unfortunate circumstance.

Let me describe, for instance, this B-52 modification amendment. It provides \$11.5 million within the account that is already outlined in the bill to modify the B-52 aircraft. These are required to maintain the combat effectiveness of the aircraft, should they be called upon once again to fly combat missions. They are going to be offset by a decrease in funds available to the F-15 fighter in the same account. I think we can do that because we can still proceed with the F-15. There has been a delay in the projected contract award, and the fighter data link program will remain fully funded for 1997, according to the maximum amount that can be spent. We believe we should provide these moneys. There is an initiative by the Senators from North Dakota to assure the current floor structure be preserved, and we are trying to prevent attrition of these aircraft. That is one of the amendments I have, and I am seeking to get approval today at this time.

We are also going to add \$4.9 million to the Navy's personnel account and \$4.4 million to the Air Force personnel account to allow the Navy to maintain an end-strength support of the P-3 squadron, and the Air Force to maintain the personnel necessary to carry out the B-52 mission as outlined by the Senators from North Dakota.

We are trying to cooperate as much as possible with many people on the other side of the aisle. I might say, all of these pending amendments are to make sure that amendments to the au-

thorization bill by Members of the minority would be fully funded.

Our leader is here, and I want to yield to the leader, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

#### NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT OF 1996—MOTION TO PROCEED

##### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I move to proceed to S. 1936 and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

##### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to S. 1936, the nuclear waste bill:

Trent Lott, Larry E. Craig, Fred Thompson, Dan Coats, Don Nickles, Ted Stevens, Craig Thomas, Richard G. Lugar, Slade Gorton, Spencer Abraham, Frank H. Murkowski, Conrad R. Burns, Dirk Kempthorne, Alan K. Simpson, Bill Frist, Hank Brown.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now withdraw the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to proceed is withdrawn.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

##### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I send to the desk a motion to invoke cloture on the passage of the pending bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

##### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on S. 1894, the Defense Appropriations bill.

Trent Lott, Ted Stevens, Larry E. Craig, Fred Thompson, Dan Coats, Charles Grassley, Richard G. Lugar, Don Nickles, Mark O. Hatfield, Craig Thomas, Slade Gorton, Spencer Abraham, Frank H. Murkowski, Conrad R. Burns, Dirk Kempthorne, Hank Brown.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I simply say to my friend from Nevada that we can either proceed with the Defense bill and finish it today, or if he wishes to try to filibuster this bill, if he will not agree to a time agreement, it is my recommendation to the leader that we recess until Monday and have the votes on the cloture. That means we will take up the nuclear waste bill first and when we get cloture on that, we will vote on it, and when we are finished with that, we will finish the Defense appropriation bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished managers of this very important legislation: Senator STE-

VENNS, who is the chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, and Senator INOUE, the great Senator from Hawaii. They always do a magnificent job on this legislation. It is legislation that is very, very important to the defense of our country and carrying out our commitments here in this country and around the world. We have troops in Bosnia right now that have a very important role they are trying to carry out. The President is committed to that. They need the funds that are necessary to do their job wherever they are in the world, where sailors are steaming today. They are looking to us to provide the funds. There are very important funds in this legislation for every state that our military men and women are serving in, and we need to get this done. We have 7 weeks left in this year. We have 12 appropriations bills to get done, including this one. We must get that done or we cannot go home. We must get started, and we can complete this bill, I think, very quickly.

Now, what has happened—I understand the concern by the Senators from Nevada about the nuclear waste issue. By forcing my hand to do these cloture motions, it has speeded up the time in which this issue will come to a head. I had planned on not filing a cloture motion on the nuclear waste issue until Friday and the vote would have occurred on Tuesday, but now it really is bringing it up sooner than it would have otherwise.

Mr. President, this is an urgent, important issue for our country. There is dangerous, radioactive nuclear waste stored in cooling pools all over this country from Vermont to Minnesota to Idaho to South Carolina. This has been an issue for 10 years which the Congress and the governments, the administrations, Republican and Democrat, have not sufficiently addressed. Countries like Sweden, France, Britain, and Japan have stepped up to this issue of how we deal with the temporary and permanent storage of nuclear waste, but in America we have not been able to bring ourselves to do it.

At the same time, the ratepayers have paid millions, in fact, billions of dollars to move toward a time when we would have a permanent storage site for nuclear waste. Do we wish it would go away? Of course. We cannot wish it away. It is there. Something must be done. This nuclear waste legislation is probably the most important environmental legislation this Congress or any Congress will consider.

(Mr. INHOFE assumed the chair.)

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, we cannot stick our heads in the sand. If we do, we will probably be radioactive. We have to step up to this issue. This is a bipartisan bill. This is a bill that Senator MURKOWSKI has worked very hard on, as have Senator CRAIG of Idaho and Senator BENNETT JOHNSTON. We cannot just ignore it. Do I want to bring it up now at a time when we are trying to work together to move Presidential