

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I understand we have about 4 minutes left on the debate on the MilCon appropriations conference report. I ask unanimous consent to yield back all remaining time.

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

Mr. BURNS. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the conference report accompanying H.R. 3517 will be laid aside.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous report, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of the conference report accompanying H.R. 3845, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3845) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by a majority of the conferees.

The Senate proceeded to consider the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of August 1, 1996.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There shall now be 10 minutes for debate on the conference report equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I am pleased to bring before this body the conference report on the District of Columbia appropriations. Needless to say, the city is having difficult times, and it is important that we expeditiously dispense with the conference report.

This report does not reflect my own views in each instance, nor the individual views of the Senate conferees. It is the result of true compromise with our colleagues in the House. The conference report provides for Federal funding of slightly less than \$719 million and overall spending of \$5.1 billion within the District of Columbia.

I regret that, again, this year the conference report dictates to the city how it will spend its own funds on controversial social issues. The conference report continues current law on subjects of both abortion and the District's domestic partners legislation.

Unlike the Senate-passed appropriations bill, the conference report provides that no funds, Federal or local, may be used to fund abortion except in the case of rape, incest or when the life of the mother would be endangered. Likewise, no funds may be used to implement the domestic partners legislation adopted by the District 4 years ago.

I am pleased, however, that these were the only divisive issues in the conference this year and that we are bringing the conference report before the Senate in early September rather than the following April, as last year.

The major budget differences between the House and Senate bills was the inclusion in the House bill of a deficit cap of \$40 million. Under the consensus budget submitted to the Congress by the council, the financial authority and the Mayor, the deficit was projected to be some \$99 million out of total spending of \$5.108 billion in fiscal year 1997.

The House bill permitted a deficit of only \$40 million, leaving it to the city to determine where the additional savings would be found. The conference report adopts a modification of the House proposal with a deficit cap of \$74 million for fiscal year 1997. This figure is roughly halfway between the House and Senate versions and represents the substantial progress toward a balanced budget that was called for in last year's legislation, establishing both the financial authority and the District's current budget process.

While not explicitly addressed in this legislation, let me state my own view that the budget which will be developed for fiscal year 1998 should also show substantial progress towards fiscal balance. While I can only speak for myself, I believe the budget deficit for fiscal year 1998 should be in the \$30 million to \$40 million range, not the over \$90 million deficit projected in the current financial plan.

Let me briefly touch on two other issues. First, the conference report largely adopts the city's consensus budget, and the architects of that budget—the council, the financial authority and the mayor—must be commended for working together to draft it. That budget process was sometimes bumpy, but no more so than our own.

Second, while we need to achieve a balance of this budget by fiscal year 1999, that fiscal balance will be very tenuous until we provide the District with help on issues outside the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Committee. My colleagues know that we cannot balance the Federal budget in the Appropriations Committee. That committee cannot balance the District's budget for very long either.

Once we have worked with the city's elected officials and the financial authority to squeeze every last penny out of the budget, I believe we will be faced with problems in entitlements programs, such as Medicaid and pensions, that will require Federal assistance to solve.

I thank my colleagues on the committee for their cooperation. Senator KOHL, my ranking member, has been of great assistance, a great cooperater, as has Senator CAMPBELL. I deeply appreciate the guidance and support from Senator BYRD and Chairman HATFIELD. I am deeply sorry that this marks the last appropriations bill I will manage during Chairman HATFIELD's tenure. I will miss his leadership. It has been extraordinary working with him, and he has been a comfort to me when I have faced difficult issues.

Finally, I wish to recognize the excellent work of the staff of the subcommittee: Terry Sauvain of the minority and Tim Leeth of the majority. Had Tim delayed his departure to the control board a few weeks, he would have sat here and had all kinds of praise heaped upon him for his almost two decades of service to Members of both sides of the aisle. Instead, he will have to accept our thanks from afar.

Mr. President, before I conclude, let me move on to the District of Columbia and its problems. The headlines have been speaking to us daily about the difficulties. Before we recessed for August, we already recognized that the city had water problems, and we appropriated in this bill a million dollars to try to help solve that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I yield another 2 minutes to Senator JEFFORDS.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I thank my friend. Also, I would like to mention the problems of the schools. We are well aware of them. The Senate tried to accommodate the problems with respect to the opening of schools, but we were unable to do so by the close of this last session. We are working very hard now, working with Senator KOHL and the House, to provide ways to fund the repairs to the schools without using Federal funds.

But I will also say, it is obvious we need to have the management of the school system looked at and dealt with, as we have with the city itself. Second, we have to keep them separate from school reform, which is also essential and necessary. We have set up a process for doing that. So I am hopeful by next year we will not have to stand here and defend the serious problems that we have in the D.C. school system today.

I yield the floor.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I request 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. KOHL. I thank you.

Mr. President, I rise today in support of the conference report for the fiscal year 1997 District of Columbia appropriations bill.

Mr. President, the conference report for the fiscal year 1997 District of Columbia appropriations bill includes \$718 million in Federal funds and \$5.02 billion in District of Columbia funds. This figure is \$1 million more in Federal funds and \$29 million less in District of Columbia funds than in the original Senate version of this bill.

This conference report has my signature and my vote for final passage. The District's financial situation demands as much. But I do have reservations: in particular, the inclusion of the House of Representatives' position on abortions and domestic partners. As you may know the Senate version of the District of Columbia Appropriations bill, which passed unanimously, contained language allowing the city to use non-Federal dollars to fund certain abortion services and domestic partner benefits. Use of Federal moneys to provide these services was prohibited, but the District could use its own money. For its part, the House of Representatives; version of the bill prohibited the use of all funds, including District Funds, in support of these services.

We have been here before. This is not a new debate. In fact, the House position represents current law. But as a proponent of a woman's right to choose, I oppose that position both on substantive grounds and because it is too broad an incursion into home rule. On the issue of domestic partners, again we should show some measure of restraint when it comes to an issue on which the local electorate—through its duly elected officials—has spoken.

Mr. President, I compliment the chairman of the subcommittee, Senator JEFFORDS, and thank him for his hard work in representing the views of the Senate in conference. The House conferees were tough, but fair, negotiators. They, too, deserve thanks for their cooperation.

I urge my Senate colleagues to adopt the conference report on behalf of all those who visit, live, and work in the Nation's Capital.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997—CONFERENCE REPORT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the first vote will be on the conference report accompanying H.R. 3517. The question is on agreeing to the conference report. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD] and the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD] would vote "yea."

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

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 6, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 269 Leg.]

YEAS—92

Abraham	Feinstein	Mack
Akaka	Ford	McConnell
Ashcroft	Frahm	Mikulski
Baucus	Frist	Moseley-Braun
Bennett	Gorton	Moynihan
Biden	Graham	Murray
Bingaman	Gramm	Nicksles
Bond	Grams	Nunn
Boxer	Grassley	Pell
Breaux	Gregg	Pressler
Bryan	Hatch	Pryor
Bumpers	Heflin	Reid
Burns	Helms	Robb
Byrd	Hollings	Rockefeller
Campbell	Hutchison	Roth
Chafee	Inhofe	Santorum
Coats	Inouye	Sarbanes
Cochran	Jeffords	Shelby
Cohen	Johnston	Simon
Conrad	Kassebaum	Simpson
Coverdell	Kempthorne	Smith
Craig	Kennedy	Snowe
D'Amato	Kerry	Specter
Daschle	Kohl	Stevens
DeWine	Kyl	Thomas
Dodd	Lautenberg	Thompson
Domenici	Leahy	Thurmond
Dorgan	Levin	Warner
Exon	Lieberman	Wellstone
Faircloth	Lott	Wyden
Feingold	Lugar	

NAYS—6

Bradley	Glenn	Kerrey
Brown	Harkin	McCain

NOT VOTING—2

Hatfield	Murkowski
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The conference report was agreed to.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997—CONFERENCE REPORT

The Senate resumed consideration of the conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on the conference report to accompany H.R. 3845, the appropriations for the District of Columbia. The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD] and the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD] would vote "yea."

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

The result was announced—yeas 83, nays 15, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 270 Leg.]

YEAS—83

Abraham	Ashcroft	Biden
Akaka	Bennett	Bingaman

Bond	Glenn	McCain
Boxer	Graham	McConnell
Bradley	Grams	Mikulski
Breaux	Grassley	Moseley-Braun
Bryan	Gregg	Moynihan
Bumpers	Harkin	Murray
Byrd	Heflin	Nicksles
Campbell	Hollings	Nunn
Chafee	Hutchison	Pell
Coats	Inhofe	Pressler
Cochran	Inouye	Pryor
Cohen	Jeffords	Reid
Conrad	Johnston	Robb
Coverdell	Kassebaum	Rockefeller
Craig	Kempthorne	Roth
D'Amato	Kennedy	Santorum
Daschle	Kerrey	Sarbanes
DeWine	Kerry	Simon
Dodd	Kohl	Simpson
Domenici	Kyl	Specter
Dorgan	Leahy	Stevens
Exon	Levin	Thompson
Feinstein	Lieberman	Thurmond
Ford	Lott	Warner
Frahm	Lugar	Wyden
Frist	Mack	

NAYS—15

Baucus	Gorton	Shelby
Brown	Gramm	Smith
Burns	Hatch	Snowe
Faircloth	Helms	Thomas
Feingold	Lautenberg	Wellstone

NOT VOTING—2

Hatfield	Murkowski
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So the conference report was agreed to.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the conference report was agreed to, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, we are not in a quorum call, are we?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. No, we are not in a quorum call.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I am glad that we have adopted those two important appropriations conference reports.

I would like for us to continue to move forward and try to make progress now on a series of amendments with regard to the VA-HUD appropriations bill.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3230

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, with regard to the conference report to accompany the Department of Defense authorization bill, I ask unanimous consent that at 10:30 on Monday, September 9, the Senate proceed to the consideration of the conference report to accompany the Defense authorization bill, that the conference report be considered as having been read; further, that there be 4 hours for debate to be equally divided between the chairman and the ranking minority member on the Armed Services Committee with an additional 1 hour under the control of Senator JOHNSTON, with the vote to occur on the conference report at 2:15 p.m. on Tuesday, September 10.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?