

say something that does not have unanimous approval because it infringes on someone else's rights, what you are really doing is stomping on the rights of almost everyone just because somebody there is intolerant.

I think of the case, this was the graduation prayer case, the prayer there was said by a Jewish rabbi. The Supreme Court said it was unconstitutional to expect people to be there because they would be expected to be respectful. That interfered with their constitutional rights.

I suggest to you and to everyone that if they said, well, we expect students to be respectful when somebody is speaking, we expect them to be respectful if the school choir is singing a song, we expect them to be respectful of all the occasions, but if it is a prayer, you cannot expect respect.

What a terrible doctrine the Supreme Court unleashed there. We have to correct it. You do not have free speech if you can only say things with which people agree.

If I could close and just share a thought expressed recently, just about 3 months ago by Pope John Paul II, concerned with religious freedom in the United States of America, when he received the new American ambassador to the Vatican just in December. He said this: "It would truly be a sad thing if the religious and moral convictions upon which the American experiment was founded could now somehow be considered a danger to free society, such that those who would bring these convictions to bear upon your Nation's public life would be denied a voice in debating and resolving issues of public policy. The original separation of church and State in the United States was certainly not an effort to ban all religious convictions from the public sphere, a kind of banishment of God from civil society."

Those were the words of Pope John Paul II just in December, expressing concern about religious freedom being stripped away in America.

The religious freedom amendment will correct that. I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP). I thank the Chair for having the time to present it. I look forward to the day in the next few weeks when we will have a chance to debate and to act upon this House floor on the religious freedom amendment.

1997 ANNUAL REPORT ON ALASKA'S MINERAL RESOURCES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REDMOND) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Resources:

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the 1996 Annual Report on Alaska's Mineral Resources,

as required by section 1011 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (Public Law 96-487; 16 U.S.C. 3151). This report contains pertinent public information relating to minerals in Alaska gathered by the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Bureau of Mines, and other Federal agencies.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 10, 1998.*

FEDERAL AGENCY CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 105-226)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Science, the Committee on International Relations, and the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 580 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998, I herewith provide an account of all Federal agency climate change programs and activities.

These activities include both domestic and international programs and activities directly related to climate change.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 10, 1998.*

MILITARY READINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, one of my favorite speakers is a guy named Will Rogers. First of all, he tells stories and he relates to people. And my subject tonight is the readiness, the national security of this great country.

We just finished a hearing in San Diego headed up by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN). Our Republican and Democrat colleagues, I was very, very proud, they listened. They watched. And they unanimously contended that the readiness state of our armed forces in this country is at a critical state.

I think it best relates, as my friend Will Rogers used to relate the stories, and it tells about a case of a gentleman that was in an accident and he was banged up. His horse was killed. His dog was killed.

And the insurance agent came to the gentleman and said, Well, is it true the day of your accident you told the police officer that it was the best day of your life and that you had never felt better? And the gentleman looked at him and said, Yes, this is right. I did that. He said, But you had broken legs and broken arms. He said, Yes, but I

still said that I never felt better. He said, Can you explain? He said, Well, my horse had broken legs and the policeman took out his revolver and he shot the horse. My dog was near death, and he reached over and shot the dog and the police officer looked at me and said, how do you feel? And of course, I replied I never felt better in my life, even though I had broken legs and arms.

Kind of the truth in the same story could be related to our service chiefs as they testified before the different committees.

□ 2245

A four-star General or Admiral will come before the committee and state, "Our readiness state is high, we are well trained, we are well prepared." And these are the same words that they said in the '70s when we were at an all-time low. But we know and they know if they do not agree with the President's budget and they say otherwise, the President will find someone who will agree. And there is the paradigm.

If we take a look, the White House budget is a good one. But our service chiefs try and give us the information to read between the lines. For example, in the President's budget education impact aid has been cut. What is education impact aid?

If a military service person signs up for aid in one State and moves to another, and they reside in that State and keep their registration there, their State taxes go to that State. And say that they go to California, the State that I am from, and their children go to that school. Well, they impact that school, but yet there are no State funds. Ninety-seven percent of education is paid for, excuse me, 93 percent, out of State funds, so there is a direct impact on that school. Yet the budget is okay, but education impact aid is not in the budget.

The service chiefs testified that 80 percent of the equipment of all of our services, 80 percent, is of 1970 vintage. But the budget is okay. There is not enough money for modernization, because modernization over the past 7 years has been cut 70 percent. So our new tanks, our new aircraft, our new weapon systems, our ships cannot be built. But yet the system is okay.

The bottom-up review that was charged by then Secretary of Defense Les Aspin pointed out that the Navy was going from 546 ships, but yet we needed only 346 to complete two combat zones at one time. They refer to it as a two MRC. It would take 346 ships to do that. But yet in the budget that we see today, in the outgoing years and this year, we are only building three to five ships, which will put us well below 300 ships. But yet the budget was okay.

There are limited parts, so bad that many squadrons in the United States have but one or two aircraft that will fly because they have had to take the parts off of those aircraft and send

them to Iraq and Bosnia and our other contingencies on the front line, and that means that the aircraft that are left here are down so that the pilots here cannot train or cannot fly those aircraft.

They have to operate a maintenance practice called cannibalization, in which they have to take a part off of one aircraft, they have to put it on another aircraft, and then take a third part and put it on the original airplane, and in many cases that does not work. The load for that maintenance worker is three times the amount of work that a normal maintenance worker has to work. But the budget is okay.

Operation tempo. Listen to this, Mr. Speaker. The operation tempo since the Cold War has increased 300 percent. But yet the budget is okay.

Our men and women are getting out of the service. The retention rate is 24 percent. Pilots in the Air Force, they had to give bonuses. It was 29 percent, and they were able to boost it up to 33 percent. The Navy is similar. What does this mean?

We interviewed in San Diego our top enlisted, our staff sergeants, our gunnies, our master chiefs, our chiefs and enlisted. Most of their senior enlisted personnel, because of the time away from home, because of the increased tempo, because of three times the workload, because of having to deploy and be away from their families, are getting out of the service. So we do not have that experience level to man the readiness of our equipment, in which in the States we do not have because it is being forced on the front lines. But yet the budget is okay.

Older equipment from the 1970s is much more difficult to keep up, Mr. Speaker. Cannibalization that does not work, 300 percent increase in op tempo, and a budget that is lower than in the 1950s. But yet the budget is okay.

Now, with that 1950s budget, Mr. Speaker, with that 1950s budget for our national security, all of the contingencies, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, there was \$16 billion spent for which Congress did not support. We did not support the increase and lengthening of Somalia, we did not support Haiti, and we did not support going into Bosnia, but the President ordered it. It cost \$16 billion, which comes out of the operations and maintenance funds which our service chiefs, our enlisted and our commanders have told us there are no parts. We are not maintaining our equipment because it is already coming out of there.

One thing they said unanimously, the service chiefs. We have a supplemental called a defense supplemental coming up, and if they do not receive this supplemental, all services will not only go into a hollow force, they will be inept. That is the words of our service chiefs. And this is critical. Without the supplemental, we will not only be in a hollow force but we will be inept.

With the experience leaving the services, we have a real problem. With our

groups training, the low level, we have less and less and less. Let me talk about the troops getting out with a Will Rogers type of story.

In Vietnam I was fortunate to shoot down a Mig 21 over Southeast Asia. When I came back aboard the U.S.S. Constellation, which was the same ship we held this hearing on, all 5,000 men on that ship were up on the flight deck because no Mig had been shot down in almost 2 years of fighting. As I taxied over to the elevator, I looked and there was Captain James D. Ward, skipper of the U.S.S. Constellation, Admiral Hutch Cooper, who was commander of Task Force 77, and all 5,000 guys were there cheering.

And I looked at my plane captain, his name was Willie Lincoln White. Willie Lincoln White, in his enthusiasm, Mr. Speaker, broke through the crowd. He knocked over Admiral Cooper, and you do not do that in the Navy, and he ran across the flight deck. In his enthusiasm, he ran by the tail feathers where the engines were still going and jumped up on the port wing. We are trying to get the ejection seat pins in and the safety arm for the weapon systems, and Willie White leaned over and grabbed my arm and said, "Lieutenant Cunningham, Lieutenant Cunningham, we got our Mig today, didn't we?"

Well, what was Willie Lincoln White telling me, Mr. Speaker? He felt a very important member of a team, and rightfully so. We shot down a lot of Migs, but we only deserve about 1/5000th of the credit. And those men and women serving in our military feel like they are part of the team. But this Congress and the White House is letting down that team, Mr. Speaker, because when men and women who are dedicated, dedicated to serving this country, are forced out because of a 300 percent increase, because of cannibalization, because of no parts, because they cannot train and that they are kept away from their families, that is wrong.

Let us take a look at the U.S.S. Constellation in port in San Diego today. She returned from a 6-month cruise overseas. Now, during the months of April, May, June, July and August she has to go up to Bremerton. She is an old boat and she has to get repairs. Now, Bremerton is not where the families of those men and women serving on that ship live. They live back in San Diego. So after a 6-month cruise, they are going to have to go up, months away from their family. This is supposed to be a time called shore duty on the rotation, 6 months on, 6 months off, that they have to spend some time with their families, but they cannot do that.

After they get through with this time in Bremerton, they have two 40-day workup periods. Why? Because the aircraft they have does not have any parts. In some cases they do not even have the airplanes. They have to get them back from sailors that are coming back off another ship, beef up their

airplanes, go out and train them, because they have not trained their new kids that have just joined the squadron.

So we have kids that are not trained as well as pilots and aviators. And even the weapons people to onload the weapons are new. So they have to gear up to that because they could potentially end up in combat. But yet the budget's okay.

Let us take a look at how foreign policy has damaged the readiness of our forces in this great country. We went into Somalia with a humanitarian message and mission. There was an extension after George Bush left and the President took over in the White House. They extended Somalia. Most of us voted against that because there was no mission, there was no clear time to get out, much like there is in Bosnia today.

The extension changed from humanitarian. And Mr. Speaker, I think you will remember that the mission went after General Aideed. Well, during that time there was a humvee, which is a vehicle that our Rangers were driving, and they were trapped by the forces there. They were cut in four pieces with chainsaws and their remains were drug through the streets of Somalia. Our military leaders asked for armor.

And at the same time the mission changed from humanitarian to going after General Aideed, the President drew down our forces, making us vulnerable to attack. And so our commanders again asked for armor and they were denied.

There was a helicopter that went down, Mr. Speaker. The same thing. Two of the members were killed outright, the one survivor was taken out and cut to pieces and his body parts were drug through the streets of Mogadishu. And again they asked for armor, because they could not get to them through the streets.

Then we put in a strike going after General Aideed, downtown Mogadishu. Our Rangers were trapped. It took 7 hours to get to them because they did not have armor, and we lost 22 of our soldiers unnecessarily. And another reason that I do not support the United Nations is because at that time Boutros Boutros-Ghali could have ordered in our tanks from other U.N. nations and did not. We lost 22 men, Mr. Speaker.

Let us look at Haiti. Oh, and guess what? In Somalia, General Aideed died last year but his son is still there. They still have the same corruption. They still have the same poverty. They have the same problems that they did for the humanitarian reasons we went there and it cost billions of dollars. Now, we take that out of Medicare, we take that out of Social Security, we take it out of education, but it is dollars that we do not have overseas.

Let us take a look at Haiti. In my opinion, Haiti could stay there for another 200 years and not be a threat militarily or economically to this

country. But yet, on the President's orders, against the will of Congress, we went into Haiti. Who did we send in there? A mad dog named Aristide, who used Haitian neckties, which is a tire around the neck of his opponents filled with gas, and lit them. But yet he was our ambassador. He was going to be the head of Haiti, supported by this administration.

Billions of dollars, Mr. Speaker. Aristide is still there, the government is still poor, the people are still poor. There are still boat people coming from Haiti, and all of the same problems we went there for. But yet it cost billions of dollars.

Let us take a look at Bosnia. In my opinion, if we pulled out of Bosnia today, would there be conflict? Yes. Look at Kosova. Look in the news today.

□ 2300

But if we pull out 5 years from now, the fighting is going to be even worse because of our failed foreign policy. And let me be explicit. The White House sent arms to Izetbegovic, the leader in Sarajevo, head of the Muslim forces, to balance out, quote, "balance out the force." We are continuing to arm and send our troops to train the Muslims. There are between 10 and 12,000 Mujahedin surrounding Izetbegovic and essentially trained under Kadafi, and that government is going closer, and closer, and closer to Iran and Iraq. And if we pull out in later years, it is not going to be the Serbs, it is not going to be the Croats, but it is going to be the fundamentalists, the Mujahadin and Hamas that are going to strike a blow, and Iran and Iraq is going to have a foothold in former Yugoslavia, and it is going to threaten Europe, and it is going to threaten Greece, and it is going to threaten the United States of America, Mr. Speaker. And that is wrong.

The President's budget represents the 14th consecutive year of defense spending decline. The President's request represents 3.1 percent of GDP, down by 50 percent in the mid 1980's. The fiscal year 1999 request represents the lowest defense budget since before, before the Korean War; Bosnia, \$7.1 billion; southeast Asia ops, 4.7 billion; Haiti Cuban ops, \$1.4 billion; Somalia, Rwanda, \$1.9 billion; \$16 billion that, again, comes out of an already low defense budget.

Since 1993, three times more spent on contingency operations than all of the United States Marine Corps procurement. Bosnia deployments are estimated to have cost an additional 10 to \$15 billion when we do not pull out this June, as the President said he would a year ago. Air Force officials have established 120 days per year as the desired maximum number of days an individual should be away from his home station.

Many of our troops are away from their homes over 230 days, and then be-

cause those critical rate shortages of our senior enlisted getting out have got to either cross deck, or go to Air Force units, or turn around and go right back to fulfill those voids. And that is another reason why retention is so low. It is another reason why our readiness is low because experience is leaving. And it is a self-contained cesspool, Mr. Speaker.

Do more with less. Brigadier General William Wallace. Remember William Wallace in "Brave Heart." This is Brigadier General William Wallace. And I quote, "We tend to see leaders that are well-educated, but not well-practiced." Why? Because their quality of experience is lacking.

Before many of us went to Vietnam and even in Desert Storm, we had strong training; we had strong control with our leaders. Our leaders were war-tested and trained. Now that is fading, Mr. Speaker. We had adversary squadrons. We were able to fight against A-4s that simulated the MiG-17 and MiG-21. We were able to fight F-5Es and other aircraft which simulated MiG-21 and MiG-29. But we do not have any more of those adversary squadrons.

The budget does not allow for those aircraft. I am alive today because of the training and the superior equipment I had in combat. And our troops are losing that edge.

Mr. Speaker, did you know that Captain O'Grady, when he was shot down in Bosnia that made the news, was not qualified at air combat maneuvering, because they are not training here in the States. And when you get overseas on the front lines, you are flying these missions, you cannot afford an airplane, you cannot afford to fly and train in many of the areas because they will not allow us the air space to fight with live ordnance on. So you end up drilling holes in the skies. And yes, Captain O'Grady was shot down with a sand missile.

You saw him being picked up by Navy and Marine forces. But he was not qualified for air combat when he was shot down. That is a crime that this country would send our men and women abroad with the lack of training, lack of parts, 70-year-old aircraft, and on and on and on.

According to Army briefing, 125 infantry squads are unmanned. That is equal to five infantry battalions, and they are not even manned because we do not have the personnel. And if we did, we do not have the senior non-commissioned officers to train them.

Additionally, there are 134 tank crews and units based in the United States which are undermanned and unqualified, more than 40 percent of a division of armored fighting power, and this is according to the Army itself.

This briefing also identified 199 crews, Mr. Speaker, of Bradley fighting vehicles in the United States that are undermanned or unqualified. That is 60 percent of a division's infantry fighting power. But yet the budget is okay.

The widespread belief of trainers interviewed in the NTC, which is Naval

Training Center, 29 Palms, and U.S. Air Force Air Warfare Center at Nellis Air Force Base is that units are arriving less prepared than they used to be and not as proficient when they complete their training as in the past. Deployed units numbers of overdue training events which drives increased workloads in order to catch up is forcing our men and women out the service.

The report states that service secretaries have confirmed that while readiness has traditionally fluctuated, meaning it is a moving target, depending on where the unit was, either deployed or at home, from all the services was at troughs of lower readiness are deeper and longer in duration. Many pilots and maintenance personnel interviewed report that aircraft are increasingly being stripped of parts as soon as they return from deployment in order to support other aircraft that are deploying.

Personnel in an S-3ASW aircraft squadron noted that it had returned from recent deployment and had no aircraft to train because the aircraft were needed to support the ongoing deployment of aircraft on the U.S.S. Kittyhawk. An ES-6 squadron only had one aircraft left. They had to get rid of all their airplanes. Fighter squadrons are leaving with no parts. Back here in the United States, they cannot fly them so they cannot train so that we can support all of these contingencies. And I quote, Never before have squadrons come back with no planes to train with.

The Marine Corps: Marine aviation weapons and tactical squadrons noted that fixed-wing pilots coming to school used to have approximately 1500 hours of flying time in a particular type aircraft. Today the average is closer to 400 hours. And these are your pilots that are going to go back and train the remaining pilots, and they only have 400 hours. They are beginners, Mr. Speaker.

Helicopter pilot students used to average approximately 12 to 1500 hours flying time. Now the average is near the minimum, 700 hours. So quality, experience. And we can neither accept or tolerate anything less than superlative in our air crews and in our men and women who maintain those machines.

Officers expressed their belief that a gradual decline in marine tactical air combat readiness was underway due to a combination of factors: Reduced experience levels, reduced turnaround time between deployments, pilot resignations, degradation of aircraft readiness and training, ordnance shortages, and a lack of trained personnel to maintain those machines. Approximately 12,000 DOD service members are on food stamps and that many others qualify. Is it any wonder, Mr. Speaker, that our servicemen and women are leaving? But yet, the budget is okay.

A 1990 survey found that 61 percent of Active enlisted soldiers and 47 percent of officers were dissatisfied with the

amount of time that they had to be separated from their families. For the last 30 years, Mr. Speaker, the number one reason for a lack of retention in our armed services is family separation. And we cannot increase an operation tempo by over 300 percent and expect to have any kind of retention figures.

Increased drug and child abuse are attributed to high pace of operations within the armed services. In 14 separate studies, 25 percent of the senior NCOs and officers indicate that they are leaving service either earlier than planned or undecided due to downsizing. Increase of PERSTEMPO, increased stress, concern about job security, declining satisfaction with quality of life, and concern for their families. Job satisfaction is down two-thirds, and leaders say organizations are working longer hours.

The force is tired, Mr. Speaker, concerned about the uncertainty of their future. Morale is low. The service chiefs will tell you that is not true, but just go out and talk to the kids. Morale is low both at individual and unit levels. And that is from the commanders of those that risk their careers by letting us know these facts.

Fully one-third of both Active and Reserve Army leaders surveyed reported the problems with outdated or aging equipment; 80 percent of their equipment is beyond the year 1970. Air Combat Command was reporting that F-15Es, the Strike Eagle, had dropped below its mission capable standards. Cannibalization of parts and deploying aircraft are increasing, overextended maintenance crews.

Air Force NCOs recently testified before the House National Committee that "higher demand for aging aircraft parts and fewer resources due to cutbacks in funding drives us to cannibalization which triples our workload. Readiness is reduced to lower numbers of aircraft. Our pilots can't train. Fewer available missions capable of aircraft results in fewer trained pilots and mission accomplishment."

Mr. Speaker, there is another factor that has decreased our readiness. In our downsizing, which was important, we had too many overseas bases; it drew too much from taxpayers and it drew too much from our services. But it has been overdone. Raising both the workloads on forces and costs of operations, CONUS-based forces must travel farther now and longer to reach deployed areas.

Of the 674 Army facilities closed worldwide since 1989, 593 were overseas. We used to go to those overseas bases. We used to get our parts. We used to get maintenance supplements. We used to have our aircraft and ships worked on at those overseas bases. But now they are closed. So what do you have to do? You have to go to Guam and Japan and other places in the Atlantic.

U.S. Air Force Europe reduced 16 main and 37 minor operating bases to six bases. Nine U.S. Air Force fighter

wings, totaling 636 aircraft, were reduced to three wings, 636 aircraft to 168 aircraft, to do the same job. But yet, the increase in tempo is 300 percent and they are expected to do the same thing.

Personnel reductions from 62,000 down to 27,000; post-Cold War operations, larger, more intensive, more complex, longer in duration, Air Force study describes the context of a new environment of degrading readiness. And I quote, "The increase in demand for U.S. Air Force assets and personnel has come to a time when U.S. Air Force and inventory personnel, operating locations, and budgets have experienced dramatic downsizing. U.S. Air Force aircraft inventory has declined 31 percent during the last 5 years."

□ 2315

Procurement, Mr. Speaker, has declined in the last 7 years by 70 percent. We need these new aircraft to survive. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, America has committed forces to nearly 40 crises. Deployments have increased, as I said, 300 percent since the Cold War, but yet funding below World War II levels.

The combined result of a smaller size and increased activity is illustrated by the Air Force which deployed 28,900 of its 441,000 personnel in 1996. The figures rose to 63,000 deployed. The previous figure deployed was 29,000. This year 63,000 had to deploy.

Army, General Reimer, the Army reduced manpower by 36 percent while increasing deployment 300 percent, increased the workload by 625 percent, with a decrease in force. Is it any wonder that our kids are getting out?

The U.S. Air Force requires 13 of its 20 air wing equivalents to support current operations, or 65 percent of the combat fighter force.

An average 50 percent of the Navy ships are out of home port. Roughly 30 percent are deployed.

A good example. We are funded for 50.4 hours per quarter steaming in the Navy. But yet with increased contingencies, those hours have gone up to over 75 hours, the increases there.

But the budget is okay, Mr. Speaker.

Reserve forces are fairly cheap, until you actually use them. When you have to send them to Iraq, when you have to send them to Bosnia, when you have to send them to South Korea because North Korea rattles its sword, then you have to pay them and, Mr. Speaker, that is not in the President's budget. But it is okay. And there are no replacements.

And op tempo continues to grow. In FY 1997 only 32 percent of the eligible Air Force aviators accepted a pilot's bonus to continue service. Our experience is leaving, our war fighters are leaving, our trigger pullers are leaving. Yet your service chiefs will stand up and say we are well trained, we are well equipped and we can go. But what can we go with, Mr. Speaker? We cannot fight a 2 MRC.

The Army's MA2A tank, they are only upgrading one-third of them. It is one of the finest tanks in the world, but their only new tank does not come out until 2020, 25 years from now, Mr. Speaker. A lot can happen in that time frame.

Let us talk about the threat and why we need these new aircraft. General Shalikashvili, for whom I have a lot of respect, he was appointed by the President, but yet he pushed the envelope, Mr. Speaker. He knew his troops needed more. They needed more of the assets. And he said we need \$60 billion for modernization or we are going to go into a hollow force. The President's budget does not come anywhere close to that. But yet we need the F-22, we need the F-18E/F, we need the B-2, we need the V-22 for special ops. Why? Why do we need these aircraft? Why is it so important? First our equipment is from 1970.

This chart that I have, Mr. Speaker, points out that the Russians today, the threat, they have aircraft, one called the MiG-29 which we have parity with it with our F-14s and our F-15s and our F-16s, but they have the SU-35 and the SU-37 which outmaneuver our aircraft. They have an AA-10 and an AA-12 missile. On the left side it shows the F-22, you can put an F-18E/F in the same position, but if you had an F-15 or an F-14 there and the SU-35, say, on this side shot or the SU-37 fired its missile, its AA-10 or AA-12 and we fired our AMRAM from an F-14 or an F-15, we die. It is a better missile. They have better radar and they can see farther, and our kids die. With the F-18E/F, the stealth characteristics built in those airplanes, instead of shooting each at the same time, we actually get closer before the Russian aircraft can see us. We are able to fire and leave and the enemy pilot dies. Yes, we need those aircraft, and they are expensive. But they give us increased range, they give us increased stealthiness, they give us increased capability. But yet that money is not in the budget to replace those aircraft in the numbers that we need them to continue with a 2 MRC. It is more intensive, it is more critical as we go.

George C. Wilson, contributing editor to the Washington Post, is a former national defense correspondent for the Washington Post. He says, "'We're having all we can do to fight no wars,' a flag officer told me ruefully, complaining that current commitments and force cuts have mooted 2 MRCs even though Clinton and Cohen won't admit it. The numbers bear him out."

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to take up the whole hour, but I would also like to show this chart. It shows mandatory outlays in all other spending has increased by 35 percent. Domestic discretionary outlays have increased 15 percent. Defense discretionary outlays have decreased 33 percent. And procurement of new systems, like the F-22 that the Air Force needs as its number one priority, the Army's helicopter,

the Marine Corps V-22 and even the Joint Strike Fighter is not there.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud of the Republicans and Democrats on the National Security Committee and on the House Appropriations Committee, because they came to the defense hearing, our service chiefs gave as much between the lines as they could without losing their jobs, and I am very, very proud of them. Our commanders of the units in all forces got up and gave us these between-the-line instances that I have just given during these last few moments, Mr. Speaker. Our non-commissioned officers, our master sergeants, our chiefs, our gunnies said it the best. They said, "Mr. Chairman," to the chairman of the committee, "We cannot continue as men and women in the Armed Forces with the lack of readiness and the lack of support that this Nation is giving us."

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. SCHIFF (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for through March 27 on account of medical reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. McNULTY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ENGEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. KELLY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. RIGGS, for 5 minutes each day, on March 11 and 12.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MORELLA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, on March 11.

Mr. BARTLETT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan, for 5 minutes each day, today and on March 11.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. McNULTY) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. SHERMAN.
Mrs. MALONEY of New York.

Mr. SCHUMER.

Mr. PAYNE.

Mr. TOWNS.

Mr. BONIOR.

Mr. THOMPSON.

Mr. DOYLE.

Mr. WYNN.

Mr. ORTIZ.

Mr. FROST.

Ms. SLAUGHTER.

Mr. LANTOS.

Ms. SANCHEZ.

Mr. KIND.

Mr. POSHARD.

Mr. MENENDEZ.

Mr. SKELTON.

Mr. TORRES.

Ms. WOOLSEY.

Mr. MANTON.

Mr. HINOJOSA.

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. KELLY) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. OXLEY.

Mr. HUNTER.

Mr. RILEY.

Mr. BASS.

Mr. HYDE.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. CUNNINGHAM) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. STARK.

Mr. LIPINSKI.

Mr. BORSKI.

Mr. LAHOOD.

Mr. PACKARD.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut.

Mrs. MORELLA.

Mr. MANTON.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

An act to encourage the disclosure to Congress of certain classified and related information; to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee did on this day present to the President, for his approval, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 595. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 475 Mulberry Street in Macon, Georgia, as the "William Augustus Bootle Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

H.R. 3116. An act to address the Year 2000 computer problems with regard to financial institutions, to extend examination parity to the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision and to the National Credit Union Administration, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 11, 1998, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7864. A letter from the Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Food Labeling: Nutrient Content Claims, Definition of Term: Healthy [Docket No. 97-035F] (RIN: 0583-AC47) received March 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7865. A letter from the Secretary, Panama Canal Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Vessel Transit Reservation System (RIN: 3207-AA40) received March 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on National Security.

7866. A letter from the AMD-Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to the Commission's Rules Regarding a Plan for Sharing the Costs of Microwave Relocation [WT Docket No. 95-157 RM-8643] received March 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7867. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Arcadia and Fort Meade, Florida) [Docket No. 97-159 RM-9122] received March 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7868. A letter from the AMD-PERM, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Geographic Partitioning and Spectrum Disaggregation by Commercial Mobile Radio Services Licensees [WT Docket No. 96-148] received March 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7869. A letter from the AMD-Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of the Commission's Rules to Establish New Personal Communications Services, Narrowband PCS [GEN Docket No. 90-314 ET Docket No. 92-100] received March 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7870. A letter from the District of Columbia Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled "Audit of the Public Service Commission's Agency Fund for Fiscal Years 1995 and 1996," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7871. A letter from the Chairman, Commission on Protecting and Reducing Government Secrecy, transmitting recommendations concerning the classification of national security information and granting of security clearances, pursuant to Public Law 103-236, section 910(a) (108 Stat. 529); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

7872. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget and Finance, Department of Interior, transmitting a report of activities under the Freedom of Information Act for the calendar year 1997, pursuant to 5