

as we put together a conference package for military construction.

We have tried to accommodate the sizeable administration request for overseas projects in such places as Korea, Germany and the Middle East. 18 percent of the administration's budget request for military construction projects is for overseas areas. We have funded only the essential of those projects.

There are many other issues that I could speak about at this time. I urge the Members of the Senate to support this bill and move it forward expeditiously.

I would like to yield to my ranking member, Senator MURRAY.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to join Chairman BURNS in recommending for the Senate's consideration the FY 1999 military construction appropriations bill. Through a bipartisan effort, we have created what I think is a very fair and just bill that should please both DoD and my colleagues here in the Senate.

As he does every year, Chairman BURNS had to weigh the priorities of the Department of Defense, the requests of his colleagues, and the recommendations of the Armed Services Committee. He had to do this with an unacceptably low budget request of \$7.784 billion, which was \$1.4 billion less than the \$9.18 billion we appropriated last year. Thanks to Chairman SEVENS, that budget request was raised to an \$8.48 billion allocation—which we have completely allocated in an equitable and bipartisan way.

You will find that the budget request yet again tremendously short ended the Guard and Reserve—asking for only \$179 million compared to the \$390 million we appropriated last year. Thanks to some creative maneuvering and forward thinking, we were able to fund the Guard and Reserve this year at \$446 million without disadvantaging any other portion of our bill.

As Chairman BURNS noted, the active components were given \$2.57 billion for military construction. In an attempt to fund even more projects, Chairman BURNS and I have also created a \$200 million package of quality of life projects that has been added to the authorization bill. These adds are included in our bill, and the criteria used in choosing them was that the programs had to be quality of life, had to be in the future year defense plan, and had to represent a broad number of States and services. These are inherently valuable projects, and include improvements to family housing, child development centers, dining facilities, barracks renewal, and physical fitness centers. I encourage all members to support this important initiative to provide a better quality of life to our service men and women.

Mr. President, this is a good bill—and it's a bill that all of the Senators here should be pleased to support. Again I'd like to thank Chairman BURNS for his fair, honest, and excellent work at

drafting a bi-partisan and equitable bill. I'd also like to thank and commend his appropriations staff, Sid Ashworth, as well as minority staff in past. Emily East and Dick Diamond for commitment to producing this first-rate bill. I hope my colleagues can join Chairman BURNS and me in supporting this bill and voting to adopt it today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendments are agreed to.

The amendments (Nos. 3045 and 3046) were agreed to.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that H.R. 4059, as amended, be considered read the third time, and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, all without further action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 4059), as amended, was considered read the third time, and passed as follows:

(The text of the bill (H.R. 4059) will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I move that the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate, all without further action or debate.

The motion was agreed to and the Chair appointed Mr. BURNS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. STEVENS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REID, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. BYRD, conferees on the part of the Senate.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 1882

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader, after the notification of the Democratic leader may turn to calendar No. 354, S. 1882, the higher education bill, and upon the reporting by the clerk, the chairman be immediately recognized to modify the committee-reported substitute. I further ask that there be 7 relevant first degree higher education amendments in order for each leader, with relevant second-degree amendments, and following the disposition of these amendments, the substitute be agreed to and the bill be advanced to third reading and the Labor Committee be immediately discharged from the House companion bill, H.R. 6.

I further ask that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration and all after the enacting clause be stricken, the text of S. 1882, as amended, be inserted, H.R. 6 be advanced to third reading and a vote occur on passage, all without any intervening action or debate.

Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate bill, S. 1882, be returned to the calendar.

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2236

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I send a bill to the desk and ask that it be read for the first time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2236) to establish legal standards and procedures for product liability litigation.

Mr. BURNS. I now ask for its second reading and will object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will remain at the desk.

COMMENDING THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS FOR 200 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 106, submitted earlier by Senators WARNER and FORD.

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

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 106) to commend the Library of Congress for 200 years of outstanding service to Congress and the Nation, and to encourage activities to commemorate the bicentennial anniversary of the Library of Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution appear at this point in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 106) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 106

Whereas the Library of Congress was established in 1800 and will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Library of Congress in 2000;

Whereas the goal of the bicentennial commemoration is to inspire creativity in the century ahead and ensure a free society through greater use of the Library of Congress and libraries everywhere;

Whereas the bicentennial goal will be achieved through a variety of national, State, and local projects, developed in collaboration with the offices of the Members of Congress, the staff of the Library of Congress, and special advisory committees; and

Whereas the bicentennial commemorative activities include significant acquisitions, symposia, exhibits, issuance of a commemorative coin, and enhanced public access to