

a fairness issue. It will impact upon the people we are concerned about the most.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TRAFICANT. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

As someone who opposed NAFTA and Bosnia, opposed money for Bosnia, I appreciate the gentleman's comments. I do wish the RECORD to show that it is tough to be eliminating 7,000 jobs, since the money has not been spent yet. It may keep us, in the gentleman's opinion, from creating those jobs.

Secondly, this is not a cut, it is a reduction of the increase.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, I did vote against NAFTA, I did vote against GATT. I say to the gentleman, I am going to stone cold vote no against the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TRAFICANT. I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I would note that it is a bit of technicality to suggest it is not a cut because it already has not passed. This legislation is about become law, and if the gentleman's amendment were passed, it would be a significant cut in the 1999 appropriation.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, there are a lot of bills with a lot of discussion on this floor. There are 13 bills to become law. This is one of them. If this amendment passes, it will ultimately cut 14,000 jobs, pursuant to the hearings we held.

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee will now rise informally to receive a message.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4103. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 4103) "An Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BOND, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HUTCHISON, Mr. INOUE, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr.

DORGAN to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The Committee resumed its sitting.

The CHAIRMAN. For what purpose does the gentleman from Oklahoma rise?

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, Will Rogers said that government programs have three things in common: a beginning, middle, and no end. That is true of the EDA.

I will include for the RECORD a letter from Mr. Orson Swindle, who was Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development under President Reagan from 1985 to 1989. I will enter this entire document in the RECORD, but I will quote from it, that the findings of many people would be as follows:

EDA's development functions duplicate the activities of programs within the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Housing and Urban Development, and Interior, as well as the Appalachian Regional Commission, Small Business Administration, Federal Emergency Agency, and Tennessee Valley Authority. On these grounds alone, the program ought to be eliminated.

We are not proposing to eliminate the program. As a matter of fact, we are proposing to limit the increase to that which is adjusted for inflation. We also are very much opposed to a 19 percent increase in administrative overhead for this program, where in fact this agency has not proved its need for that.

Let us be clear what this amendment is about. It is not about cutting EDA, it is about increasing EDA, just not increasing it as much. It is about limiting the increase in the overhead for the administration of EDA. Why would we want to do that? Because we know that our discussions on appropriations bills are about priorities. We know where the savings are.

The other thing we might also know is that as far as EDA's charge, we seem to have been in this past year in one of the greatest times of our productivity, success, industrial growth rate, increase in standard of living that this country has seen. Yet, in 90 percent of our communities, EDA is active because there is supposedly a problem with lack of jobs in all of those communities.

I do not deny that there are significant areas in our country that have a need for EDA grant money, but not 90 percent of the country.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COBURN. I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I would suggest, first of all, that Mr.

Swindle, who is a very fine gentleman, had these very strong views about EDA before he came to, I believe, head the agency, did he not?

Mr. COBURN. I am sorry?

Mr. MOLLOHAN. I was suggesting that Orson Swindle, to whom the gentleman alluded, I believe he headed EDA at one point in time.

Mr. COBURN. I do not know that he actually headed it. He was Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that he had these strong views about EDA before he came to the job. I just remember that.

The gentleman mentioned the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Department of Agriculture as agencies one could go to who had duplicate programs with EDA. I would ask the gentleman, what were the other agencies?

Mr. COBURN. The other agencies that had duplicative functions?

Mr. MOLLOHAN. That duplicated the authorization.

Mr. COBURN. The Appalachian Regional Commission, the Small Business Administration, the Federal Emergency Agency, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Departments of Defense, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, and the Department of Agriculture all have programs that are duplicated by EDA in one form or another.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I would not hold myself out as an expert on EDA, but we do an awful lot of EDA projects in our district, unfortunately because we qualify under the criteria. Just standing here right now, I cannot think of one EDA project we have going where we could have gone to the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Mr. COBURN. Reclaiming my time, I think the defining words are that there would be a consensus that there are many programs duplicated by the EDA. That may not be the case in the gentleman's particular district.

Let us talk about drug courts, reclaiming my time. Drug courts offer us tremendous savings, and there are some real data that needs to be shared with our body. They open up prison space for violent offenders. Most State and local jails as well as Federal jails are operating above capacity. This is largely due to the high number of incarcerated drug offenders, many of whom are nonviolent.

Drug courts provide a structured alternative to prison for those nonviolent offenders. Not only does this program save money, it helps to ensure that adequate prison space is available to house the most violent offenders in our society.

I want to give the gentleman some savings from drug courts from some of the areas across the country. Denver, Colorado, saves between \$1.8 and \$2.5 million per year because of drug courts; Phoenix, Arizona, reported this last year a saving of \$112,000.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) has expired.