Zito, Lynda Murphy, Tom Bowman, Joe Connolly, Steve Dunkle, Joan Mitchell, Mary Jo Bierman, Andy Wallace, and Vincent Galko.

THE CONSERVATION TRUST OF PUERTO RICO

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, before we adjourn, Senator MOYNIHAN and I would like to speak to an issue that has yet been unable to be resolved—the funding for the Conservation Trust Fund of Puerto Rico. The Conservation Trust was created in 1968 for the protection of the natural resources and environmental beauty of Puerto Rico.

The Trust lost much of its funding as a consequence of the decisions to phase-out section 936 and eliminate the Qualified Possession Source Investment Income (also known as ''QPSII'') provision in the tax code. I hope that Congress and the Administration will continue to work together to find an equitable solution that will permit the Trust to continue its protection of the environment in Puerto Rico.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. I agree with the distinguished Chairman of the Finance Committee. I would also point out that both the funding for the Conservation Trust and the opportunity to provide much needed monies to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands could have been accomplished by including the Administration's rum ''cover over'' proposal as part of the tax extenders package in the omnibus appropriations measure.

The needs of Puerto Rico, and the importance of this provision, were magnified by the devastation recently caused by Hurricane Georges. Despite significant bipartisan support in the Senate and the House, and a strong push from the Administration, for some reason the House refused to include this provision in the bill. I thank the Chairman for the opportunity to work with him next year to address this issue.

NATIONAL SECURITY PLANNING

Mr. WARNER. During the past two weeks, the Senate Armed Services Committee has conducted hearings on the readiness of the armed forces. Through testimony from the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the service secretaries, it has been revealed that the military is trained and being asked to perform beyond capacity. The readiness of the armed forces is clearly and unmistakably suffering. For the past several years, this has been the concern of many of the committee and in the Senate, myself included, and we have made every argument during this precipitous decade-plus decrease in defense budgeting to reduce the cuts, arguing that we've cut well beyond the fat and the flesh, and have long been cutting into the bone.

This situation is now receiving the priority so long overdue. Approximately $7 billion of the emergency spending supplemental currently being debated is for immediate defense readiness funding shortfalls. This is, however, only a stop gap measure, and must be the first step in a long journey to ensure the military is properly exercised and outfitted to defend U.S. national security interests.

If we are to responsibly correct this readiness shortcoming, then we must look to the root cause or causes. I believe, as do several of my colleagues on the armed services committee, and others in the Senate, that the primary and foremost reason for the readiness shortfall is an incongruity between the foreign policy goals of this administration, the strategy, and the resources to achieve those goals.

While defense spending is at an historical low, the armed forces are being exercised and deployed in ever increasing frequency and with less and less direction. Earlier this year, for example, Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher gave the remarkable statistic that since the demise of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, the Navy-Marine Corps team alone has been involved in 93 naval contingencies in 96 months. That is an average of almost once a month that the Navy-Marine Corps team has been involved in a contingency of importance to our national security.

As the Congress prepares to adjourn, we do so in a world laden with instability, one which will demand U.S. leadership and engagement. In Kosovo, refugees—numbering nearly a quarter of a million—are fleeing from Kilosevic's forces. They are cowering in the mountains where the harsh winter of the Balkan mountains will kill thousands more, or they are flooding neighboring countries for relief—but finding those countries ill-equipped to support them. I am confident NATO, under U.S. leadership, will soon take action to end the strife action which will require the deployment of a ground forces in Kosovo—with some U.S. participants in view of having an American commander of NATO.

Israel remains the flashpoint in the Middle East, but others come and go. Turkish troops are massing on the Syrian border, preparing to defend a pre-World War II territory claim and retaliate to any Syrian opposition in force. The Taliban, having secured a religious revolution in Afghanistan, have engaged Iranian forces along their common border in an escalating war between two sects of Islam.

While the Gulf War has been over for seven years, Iraq, in defiance of the world community, continues to remain armed. Two months have passed since Saddam Hussein prohibited officials from the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq from conducting inspections. Further, the testing of Vx gas by Iraq has been corroborated by independent tests in France. Questions, credible ones, still arise over their nuclear posture.

Worldwide, a proliferation of nuclear technology and the proliferation of the means to deliver weapons of mass destruction is unnevering. India and Pakistan now have the bomb, and unfortunately, like so many other neighbors in the world community, they also have the motive to use it against each other. The launch of the Taepo Dong 1 by North Korea was a clear and unmistakable ''shot heard round the world.'' Such an action by a militarized, secretive, isolated, country in the throws of an overwhelming economic depression, by a people increasingly in despair, is a harbinger of catastrophe.

This is but a brief summary—a few examples to illustrate where I see continuing and emerging challenges to United States national security interests. Clearly, the end of the Cold War was not peace, but a transformation of the world's politico-military order with unsettled ancient conflicts based on ethnic, religious or tribal differences and interests against emerging. These threats require our continued vigilance and must be our highest concerns.

It is in this context that former Secretary of Defense, Dr. James Schlesinger, examines the current administrations ability to meet these threats given current U.S. force structure and the resources accorded to achieving foreign and defense goals. In his article, ''Raise the Anchor or Lower the Ship, Defense Budgeting and Planning,'' published in the Fall of 1998 edition of The National Interest, Dr. Schlesinger articulates the dilemma with which we find ourselves in recouping the peace dividend in an unstable world that demands U.S. presence and leadership.

Dr. Schlesinger is far too modest to observe that his insights were part of the foundation that led to the increase in military funding that occurs in legislation to be adopted by Congress this week; I encourage each of my colleagues to take a moment to review the article. His forthright, candid discussion of the mismatch between the ends of U.S. foreign and defense policy and the means with which to realize those ends will be a prominent reference for the Senate Armed Services Committee and this body as we deliberate this emergency defense appropriations supplemental and future defense funding issues in the coming congress.

DALE BUMPERS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, as we approach the end of another Congress, we bid farewell to those Senators who will not be returning in January. Today I wish to say farewell to a good friend and one of the most honorable and respected members of this body—DALE BUMPERS.

DALE BUMPERS is the epitome of what a Senator should be. He entered public service because he believed that it was a noble profession, and throughout his political career he has performed his duties with the highest levels of integrity and decency. He has always been