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Senate

(Legislative day of Friday, September 22, 2000)

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2001—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 4577, which the clerk will report.

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4577) "making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes", having met, have agreed: that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate, and agree to the same with an amendment, and the Senate agree to the same; that the House agree to the title of the bill, with an amendment, and the Senate agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of today, December 15, 2000.)

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, the fiscal year 2001 Labor/HHS Appropriations Conference Report is now before the Senate.

This conference report serves to wrap up work on all fiscal year 2001 appropriations bills, as it includes the Treas-

ury-General Government and legislative branch bills. Those two bills were previously passed by the Congress, but were vetoed by the President.

The only significant change to the bills previously passed by Congress is the deletion of the telephone tax provision in the Treasury bill. The conference report includes other appropriations matters, which emerged subsequent to the completion of the other fiscal year 2001 bills.

Significant items include \$150 million for repair of the U.S.S. *Cole*, \$100 million for intelligence activities requested by the White House, \$110 million for the new markets initiative, \$100 million for volunteer firefighter grants sought by our colleague from Delaware, Senator ROTH, and \$100 million for the Library of Congress to enhance the National Digital Library.

I want to also thank all my colleagues for their patience as I worked with the White House for a compromise on the Alaskan Fishery/Sea Lion protection issue. Through the hard work of many here in Congress and at the White House, OMB and the Department of Commerce, we achieved a compromise that meets the priorities of all parties—who share the goal of protecting the sea lion population, and the economic well being and viability of the commercial fishing industry in my State.

There are many specific issues that I could comment on today, but I had the

opportunity to brief members of this side of the aisle at a conference this afternoon, and the bill is available in the Cloakroom for review.

I urge all my colleagues to support this conference report, which completes the work of this Congress, during this Congress. Next month, when the 107th Congress convenes, and a new President is inaugurated, they will both start with no carryover from this Congress.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, as has been the case on far too many occasions in the past number of years, the Senate finds itself today in the position of having to deal with a massive omnibus appropriations bill. We have had to pass a record number—21—of Continuing Resolutions in order to keep the Federal Government operating since the fiscal year began on October 1st. These Continuing Resolutions were necessary because we in the Congress and the Administration could not resolve our differences on a myriad of issues, most of which have not involved funding levels at all. Rather, the haggling for the past many weeks has been over issues such as ergonomics regulations, immigration, and certain regulatory matters; all of which would be more appropriately handled by the authorizing committees with jurisdiction over them. Instead of following the established practices and the regular

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Michael F. DiMario, *Public Printer*

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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