

NAYS — 40

Allard	Domenici	Santorum
Allen	Enzi	Schumer
Bayh	Frist	Sessions
Bond	Grassley	Smith (NH)
Brownback	Gregg	Smith (OR)
Burns	Hatch	Snowe
Campbell	Hutchinson	Specter
Clinton	Hutchison	Thomas
Collins	Inhofe	Thompson
Conrad	Kyl	Thurmond
Craig	Lott	Voinovich
Crapo	Lugar	Warner
Dayton	McConnell	
DeWine	Nickles	

NOT VOTING—4

Akaka	Helms
Ensign	Roberts

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 295) was agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 295

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, December 20, 2001, or Friday, December 21, 2001, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned sine die, or until Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate adjourns at the close of business on Thursday, December 20, 2001, or Friday, December 21, 2001, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned sine die, or until Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. DURBIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, it was my hope that we could go immediately to the final vote on the conference report on the Defense appropriations bill. I make that recommendation. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President and colleagues, while we are waiting some other colleagues to return to this Chamber to negotiate, I would like to make just a short comment on the economic stimulus package.

I would imagine that right now the political pundits of Washington, and really the political pundits all around

the country, are already sharpening their pencils, and the editorial writers are already banging away on their typewriters, as well as the political consultants and all the special-interest groups are preparing, already, their attack ads to blame someone for the failure of this Congress to complete and pass an economic stimulus package.

Over the next several days, and possibly even over the next several weeks, we are going to hear some say: Well, it is TOM DASCHLE's fault that we do not have an economic stimulus package because he did not bring the package to the Senate floor. We will also hear that, no, it is the Republican leader's fault because they only supported a package that helped the rich special interests. Or perhaps we will hear that, no, it is the fault of the President of the United States for not providing the leadership to bring both sides together.

The blame game has now begun. I have noticed the papers already this morning.

The Wall Street Journal said: The White House and congressional leaders fail to reach a compromise and now turn their efforts instead to casting blame for its failure.

The front page of the Washington Post this morning said: Yesterday, as both sides began engaging in a furious legislative end game designed to assign blame to the other party for failure . . .

The front page of the New York Times said the same thing, in essence. They said: The Bush administration, along with others, turned instead to partisan finger pointing over who was to blame for the impasse.

So, my colleagues and folks around the country, the blame game has already begun.

But one thing is very certain, and that is Americans cannot go to the grocery store and buy bread and buy milk with blame. It does not work.

When Congress fails to act, it is not our political parties that are hurt but the people we represent are truly the ones who are hurt.

Unfortunately, our political parties sometimes believe that they are actually helped when nothing is done so that they can blame the other side for failure and perhaps pick up a few congressional seats or perhaps even take over the White House.

Perhaps we, as members of the centrist coalition, should have gotten involved sooner. Maybe we should have offered our congressional proposal, blending the best ideas from both sides, earlier than we did. It might have helped.

Perhaps the White House should have become engaged earlier than they did. Maybe they should have been stronger in telling both sides to work together for an agreement.

Perhaps, perhaps, maybe, maybe, might have, might have, but in the end our biggest enemy was time. There simply was not sufficient time remaining to take up an extremely com-

plicated package, only passed late last night by the House of Representatives, and to try to explain it sufficiently to colleagues in the Senate in order for people to take a rational vote on that legislation.

To those who try to blame Leader TOM DASCHLE, I say, baloney. I was there. I worked hard for an agreement. But we did not in the end—and we do not now—have the votes to pass such a package in the Senate. I know that. We all know that. And it serves no one to bring up, in the last few hours, a very complicated package only for political purposes when we know the votes are not there.

The good news is that we came very close and can use the progress that we made in these negotiations to pass a package when we return in January. Both sides moved. We moved on taxes. We moved on health coverage. But only if we allow the outside forces to poison the wells so badly that we cannot negotiate will we not be able to reach an agreement.

Both sides must realize in a divided government we must compromise or nothing will get done. Businesses will get no relief or incentives to grow. Individuals will get no stimulus checks.

Unless we come together and reach an agreement, businesses will get no relief. They will get no incentives to grow. Individuals, on the other hand, will get no stimulus checks. They will get no extended unemployment compensation. They will get no Federal assistance to buy their health insurance.

For the first time in this country's history, we had the Federal Government paying for over one-half of an unemployed worker's health insurance. Now they must pay 100 percent. We came close.

The special interests in both our Democratic Party and our Republican Party must realize that in representing their constituents, they need to be flexible. They cannot insist that those of us who care about them be forced into a "we want it all or nothing" situation. In that case, the "all or nothing" situation produces nothing.

Is "nothing" what they want for the people they represent? Can they tell the workers, over the holidays, that not getting \$14 billion in stimulus checks and not getting \$18 billion in unemployment money and not getting \$21 billion more in health assistance was the right thing for them because there were other provisions that would not directly help them that was also part of the package?

Can business lobbyists say they are better off with no accelerated depreciation because they wanted it for 3 years? Or are they really better off with no AMT relief because they wanted a permanent repeal instead of only a partial repeal?

Is it not better to reach an agreement that you can get 70 percent of what you want and then fight for the remainder in the future?

Neither Medicare nor Social Security started out providing everything they

provide today. Government is a gradual thing, and that is not bad. It is what American Government does best. We evolve. We cannot be stagnant.

More and more Americans look at Washington and wonder why it does not work as it should. Why do grown men and women fight and argue when solutions need to be reached? Especially is this true as a feeling among younger voters.

Let me conclude by pointing out that in the height of the Presidential election squabble in Florida, the Gallup organization asked Americans at that time, in a national poll, about their political affiliation. Shockingly, for some Americans, the poll came back and said that 42 percent of Americans identified themselves as Independents. That was more than who identified themselves as either Democrats or Republicans.

There is a message there: Americans do not want blame as a theme song for their Government. They want results. They want results that help them, and they do not particularly care who produces it.

I hope we can all learn from this experience. The greater challenges ahead can be solved only by working for the greater good. We can only do that by working together in order to achieve it.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MILLER addressed the Chair.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I appreciate very much the Senator from Georgia allowing me to make a unanimous consent request.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 3338
CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, we have been negotiating with a number of our colleagues regarding the Defense appropriations conference report. I would like to propound a unanimous consent request, with an expectation that it may need further clarification.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Arizona, Mr. MCCAIN, be recognized; that the Senator from West Virginia, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, be recognized; that the two subcommittee chairs, the Senator from Alaska and the Senator from Hawaii, also be recognized; and that the Senator from Michigan be recognized; that upon the recognition of those Senators and their remarks in regard to the Defense appropriations conference report, the Senate vote immediately on its final passage.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Reserving the right to object, I just ask the question, Will the subcommittee chairs be designating time from their time?

Mr. DASCHLE. The answer is yes. It is not necessarily in that order, I would clarify, Mr. President.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DASCHLE. I thank all of my colleagues.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DODD). The clerk will report the conference report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3338) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate, agree to the same with an amendment, and the Senate agree to the same, signed by all conferees on the part of the two Houses.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of December 19, 2001.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise today to offer my unqualified support for the conference agreement that was just reported. I am pleased to present the recommendations to the Senate today as division A of this measure. The recommendations contain the result of lengthy negotiations between the House and Senate managers and countless hours of work by our staffs acting on behalf of all Members.

The agreement provides \$317.2 billion, the same as the House and Senate levels, consistent with our 302(b) allocations.

In order to accommodate Members of the Senate, may I request that I be given the opportunity to now set aside my statement and yield to the Senator from Arizona for his statement. Upon his conclusion, I will resume my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I am not ready to give my statement yet. I am still having my people come over with information. As a matter of fact, we haven't even gotten through the entire bill yet. I will be ready shortly.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I join the distinguished chairman of the defense subcommittee, Senator INOUE, in presenting the fiscal year 2002 Department of Defense conference report to the Senate.

This bill enjoys my total support, and I urge all my colleagues to support this conference report, and the funds provided herein that are vital to our national security.

In addition to the base funding for the current fiscal year, this bill also in-

cludes the allocation of \$20 billion in emergency supplemental funding provided by Congress immediately after the September 11 attack.

These funds fulfill the commitment made by Congress to respond to the needs of the victims of the September 11 attack. I commend the Governor of New York, the Mayor of New York City, and the two Senators from New York, for their stalwart work to ensure these funds meet the needs of their constituents.

The enhanced funding provided in Division B of this bill for homeland defense will also have a significant effect on the security of this nation.

It is appropriate that the homeland defense funding be included in this bill—in the war against terrorism, there are no boundaries.

The money in this bill to secure our borders, our airports, our ports, to protect against bioterrorism and to assist first responders will send a strong signal to our citizens, and our potential adversaries, of our determination to win this war on terrorism on every front.

Turning more specifically to the underlying defense bill in Division A, there are two matters in particular I wish to address today: missile defense and the tanker leasing initiative.

The Senate version of the bill provided the full \$8.3 billion requested by Secretary Rumsfeld for missile defense programs. The House bill provided approximately \$7.8 billion.

During our conference, we were informed of two major program changes in missile defense.

The Undersecretary of Defense for acquisition, on behalf of Secretary Rumsfeld, reported that the department would terminate the Navy area defense system, and the SBIRS-low satellite program.

Funding for these two programs, totaling more than \$700 million, was realigned to other defense priorities within and outside missile defense.

For example, of the Navy area program funds, \$100 million was reserved for termination liabilities for the program and \$75 million was transferred to the airborne laser program.

From the SBIRS-low termination, \$250 million is reserved for satellite sensor technology development—which could all be used for further work under the existing SBIRS-low contracts, if the department so chooses.

Addressing the significance of protecting our deployed forces, the conference agreement provides an additional \$60 million over the budget request to accelerate production of the Patriot PAC-3 missile.

In his statement, the chairman of the subcommittee articulated his support for the air refueling tanker initiative, and I appreciate his kind words on my role in that effort.

Contrary to some reports, this provision was not a last minute industry bailout, hidden from public view. In fact, this responds to military need,