

United States and abroad, the committee is deeply concerned that the scientific and technical building blocks of our economic leadership are eroding at a time when many other nations are gathering strength. We are worried about the future prosperity of the United States. We fear the abruptness with which a lead in science and technology can be lost and the difficulty of recovering a lead once lost—if indeed it can be regained at all.”

The report’s key recommendations? Nothing fancy. Charles Vest, the former president of M.I.T., summed them up: “We need to get back to basic blocking and tackling”—educating more Americans in the skills needed for 21st-century jobs.

Among the top priorities, the report says, should be these:

(1) Annually recruiting 10,000 science and math teachers by awarding four-year merit-based scholarships, to be paid back through five years of K–12 public school teaching. (We have too many unqualified science and math teachers.)

(2) Strengthening the math and science skills of 250,000 other teachers through extra-curricular programs.

(3) Creating opportunities and incentives for many more middle school and high school students to take advanced math and science courses, by offering, among other things, \$100 mini-scholarships for success in exams, and creating more specialty math-and-science schools.

(4) Increasing federal investment in long-term basic research by 10 percent a year over the next seven years.

(5) Annually providing research grants of \$500,000 each, payable over five years, to 200 of America’s most outstanding young researchers.

(6) Creating a new Advanced Research Projects Agency in the Energy Department to support “creative out-of-the-box transformational energy research that industry by itself cannot or will not support and in which risk may be high, but success would provide dramatic benefits for the nation.”

(7) Granting automatic one-year visa extensions to foreign students in the U.S. who receive doctorates in science, engineering or math so they can seek employment here, and creating 5,000 National Science Foundation-administered graduate fellowships to increase the number of U.S. citizens earning doctoral degrees in fields of “national need.” (See the rest at www.nationalacademies.org <<http://www.nationalacademies.org>>.)

These proposals are the new New Deal urgently called for by our times. This is where President Bush should have focused his second term, instead of squandering it on a silly, ideological jag called Social Security privatization. Because, as this report concludes, “Without a renewed effort to bolster the foundations of our competitiveness, we can expect to lose our privileged position.”

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, morning business is closed.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, THE JUDICIARY, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 3 p.m. having arrived, the Senate will proceed

to the consideration of H.R. 3058, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3058) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Appropriations with an amendment.

(Strike the part shown in black brackets and insert the part shown in italic.)

H.R. 3058

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, \$84,913,000 (increased by \$250,000) (reduced by \$17,339,000), of which not to exceed \$2,198,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Secretary; not to exceed \$698,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Deputy Secretary; not to exceed \$15,183,000 (increased by \$250,000) shall be available for the Office of the General Counsel; not to exceed \$11,680,000 shall be available for the Office of the Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy; not to exceed \$7,593,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs; not to exceed \$2,052,000 (reduced by \$2,052,000) shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs; not to exceed \$23,139,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration; not to exceed \$1,910,000 (reduced by \$1,910,000) shall be available for the Office of Public Affairs; not to exceed \$1,442,000 (reduced by \$1,422,000) shall be available for the Office of the Executive Secretariat; not to exceed \$697,000 shall be available for the Board of Contract Appeals; not to exceed \$1,265,000 shall be available for the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization; not to exceed \$2,033,000 for the Office of Intelligence and Security; not to exceed \$3,128,000 shall be available for the Office of Emergency Transportation; and not to exceed \$11,895,000 (reduced by \$11,895,000) shall be available for the Office of the Chief Information Officer: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Transportation is authorized to transfer funds appropriated for any office of the Office of the Secretary to any other office of the Office of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no appropriation for any office shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent by all such transfers: *Provided further*, That notice of any change in funding greater than 5 percent shall be submitted for approval to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$60,000 (reduced by \$60,000) shall be for allocation within the Department for official reception and representation expenses as the Secretary may determine: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, ex-

cluding fees authorized in Public Law 107–71, there may be credited to this appropriation up to \$2,500,000 in funds received in user fees: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this Act shall be available for the position of Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs.

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Civil Rights, \$8,550,000.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses for conducting transportation planning, research, systems development, development activities, and making grants, to remain available until expended, \$40,613,000 (reduced by \$31,583,000).

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

Necessary expenses for operating costs and capital outlays of the Working Capital Fund, not to exceed \$120,014,000, shall be paid from appropriations made available to the Department of Transportation: *Provided*, That such services shall be provided on a competitive basis to entities within the Department of Transportation: *Provided further*, That the above limitation on operating expenses shall not apply to non-DOT entities: *Provided further*, That no funds appropriated in this Act to an agency of the Department shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund without the approval of the agency modal administrator: *Provided further*, That no assessments may be levied against any program, budget activity, subactivity or project funded by this Act unless notice of such assessments and the basis therefor are presented to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and are approved by such Committees.

MINORITY BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER PROGRAM

For the cost of guaranteed loans, \$500,000, as authorized by 49 U.S.C. 332: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed \$18,367,000. In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the guaranteed loan program, \$400,000.

MINORITY BUSINESS OUTREACH

For necessary expenses of Minority Business Resource Center outreach activities, \$3,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2007: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 49 U.S.C. 332, these funds may be used for business opportunities related to any mode of transportation.

PAYMENTS TO AIR CARRIERS

(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

In addition to funds made available from any other source to carry out the essential air service program under 49 U.S.C. 41731–41742, \$54,000,000 to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary may transfer amounts appropriated to the Federal Aviation Administration under any heading in this Act or otherwise available to the Federal Aviation Administration, to make such amounts available for obligation and expenditure for the essential air service program, in satisfaction of the requirements of section 41742(a)(1) of title 49, United States Code, in advance of the collection of fees under section 45301 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall reimburse such amounts to the Federal Aviation Administration proportionally by transfer, to the extent possible, from amounts credited to the account established under section 45303 of title 49, United States