

States has constructed the Proliferation Security Initiative, which enlisted the participation of other nations in the interdiction of WMD, but it lacks a coordinated effort to improve the capabilities of our foreign partners so that they can play a larger and more effective role.

The Lugar-Obama bill earmarks 25 percent of the Nonproliferation, Antiterrorism, Demining, and Related Programs account to address the shortcomings in the State Department's response. If currently law, this would have amounted to \$110 million this year. Our bill goes one step further by calling on the State Department to also commit 25 percent of annual foreign military financing amounts to nations for the purchase of equipment to improve their ability to detect and interdict WMD. This would represent a potent but flexible tool that could help build a network of WMD detection and interdiction capabilities world wide and contribute to U.S. national security.

Senator OBAMA and I recently wrote in the Washington Post that the United States cannot stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction alone. We need the vigilance of like-minded nations, but many of our potential partners lack the capability to detect hidden weapons and interdict shipments. We believe our legislation will address this gap.

If weapons or materials of mass destruction elude U.S. programmatic efforts at the source, at international borders, and our own borders, the next line of defense must take the form of help to local "first responders"—the firemen, police, emergency management teams, and medical personnel who will be on the front lines.

In 1996, I joined my colleagues Sam Nunn and PETE DOMENICI in offering the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici "Defense Against Weapons of Mass Destruction" legislation. For the first time, it directed the professionals from the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Health and Human Services, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Environmental Protection Agency to join into a partnership with local emergency professionals in cities across the country, including Indianapolis and Fort Wayne.

The Pentagon developed plans to supply training and equipment to 120 cities across the country. In February 1998, the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici Domestic Preparedness Program visited Indianapolis and Marion County. Six hundred fifty first responders received training to respond to nuclear, chemical and biological incidents. In the years that followed, thousands of additional professionals received instruction through the program's train-the-trainer program. In 2000, Fort Wayne and Allen County received similar training under the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici Program.

The training proved its worth when Indianapolis was confronted with the threat of weapons of mass destruction. Planned Parenthood clinics in Indianapolis and New Albany and at St. Matthews Catholic Church and elsewhere received anthrax threats. We were relieved that the threats were determined to be false but proud to see the professional manner in which the city's first responders reacted to the threat and treated the potential victims.

Over the last 15 years, I have worked closely with both Bush administrations and President Clinton to safeguard the American people from the threats associated with weapons of mass destruction. We still have much work to do, but the certification of the Indiana WMD-CST makes the people of Indiana safer. I am thankful that in the event of a WMD incident, the people of Indiana will not be alone. Local first responders and the WMD-CST will be there to provide assistance and expertise.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4096. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend to 2006 the alternative minimum tax relief available in 2005 and to index such relief for inflation.

H.R. 4388. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4440. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax benefits for the Gulf Opportunity Zone and certain areas affected by Hurricanes Rita and Wilma, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4769. A communication from the Special Assistant to the President and Director, Office of Administration, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the personnel report for personnel employed in the White House Office the Executive Residence at the White House, the Office of the Vice President, the Office of Policy

Development (Domestic Policy Staff), and the Office of Administration; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-4770. A communication from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extraordinary Contractual Actions" (DFARS Case 2003-D048) received on November 28, 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4771. A communication from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Subcontracting Policies and Procedures" (DFARS Case 2003-D025) received on November 28, 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4772. A communication from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update of Clauses for Telecommunications Services" (DFARS Case 2003-D053) received on November 28, 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4773. A communication from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Acquisition of Telecommunications Services" (DFARS Case 2003-D055) received on November 28, 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4774. A communication from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Contract Administration" (DFARS Case 2003-D023) received on November 28, 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4775. A communication from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Information Technology Equipment—Screening of Government Inventory" (DFARS Case 2003-D054) received on November 28, 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4776. A communication from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Contract Modifications" (DFARS Case 2003-D024) received on November 28, 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4777. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of General Counsel, received on November 28, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4778. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the designation of an acting officer for the position of Assistant Secretary, received on November 28, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4779. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary, received on November 28, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4780. A communication from the Deputy Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Parts 4022 and 4044) received on November 28, 2005;