

In section 2204(a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), strike the dollar amount and insert "\$2,757,249,000".

In section 2204(a)(1), strike the dollar amount and insert "\$1,496,532,000".

In section 2204(a)(2), strike the dollar amount and insert "\$293,858,000".

In section 2304(a)(1), strike the dollar amount and insert "\$710,173,000".

In section 2404(a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), strike the dollar amount and insert "\$10,253,464,000".

In section 2404(a)(1), strike the dollar amount and insert "\$898,483,000".

Title XXXI, subtitle A, add at the end the following new section:

SEC. 3105. OTHER ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Energy for fiscal year 2008 for energy security and assurance programs necessary for national security in the amount of \$6,000,000.

Make the following technical amendments:

(1) Page 302, lines 13 to 20, move the margins 2 ems to the right.

(2) Page 332, line 20, insert "in" before "subparagraph (B)".

(3) Page 478, lines 12 to 15, move the margins 2 ems to the right.

(4) Page 513, line 22, strike "(I)" and insert "(i)".

(5) Page 514, line 20, strike "(I)" and insert "(i)".

(6) Page 623, line 19, strike the period and insert a semicolon.

(7) Page 669, line 16, strike "(I)" and insert "(i)".

(8) Page 734, line 10, strike "redesignation" and insert "redesignating".

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 403, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, my manager's amendment which is before us this moment makes a series of technical and conforming changes, all of which have been set forth for the Members throughout the day, and I ask all the Members to support it.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, I just want to thank my chairman, Mr. SKELTON, the gentleman from Missouri, for such a wonderful job on this bill. We are totally in agreement with the manager's amendment and support it.

Mr. SKELTON. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, my friend (Mr. TIM MURPHY).

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to ask for your help in this colloquy to identify an alternative that will allow the commissary and exchange stores to remain open at the Army's Charles E. Kelly support facility in Oakdale, Pennsylvania.

Although this installation will close as a result of the base realignment and closure process, there will remain a strong demand for these stores that are so critical to the vitality and welfare of any military community.

In the case of the Kelly support facility, the population of activity duty, reservists and retirees in western Pennsylvania, and the adjacent areas of Ohio and West Virginia, is estimated to be nearly 70,000, with another 100,000 family members. I would hope that a way can be found to project this critical benefit for these great Americans who have faithfully served our Nation.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman for a response.

Mr. SKELTON. I thank the gentleman for raising this very important issue. I assure the gentleman from Pennsylvania that I will assist him in pursuing new options for protecting these important benefits at the Kelly support facility.

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Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I also want to thank the gentleman for including report language including the development of a new model for a combined commissary and exchange store. I believe a new strategy for combining these stores can be a valuable tool in protecting these benefits.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, I agree. A combined commissary and exchange store may be the key to the future military resale activities at installations such as at the Kelly Support Facility.

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Finally, Mr. Chairman, I thank you for your support. I would also like to thank Chairman MURTHA for his help and commitment and my Pittsburgh colleague and friend, MIKE DOYLE, and also Mr. ALTMIRE for help on this project. I am pleased to be working with all of my colleagues on this important issue and look forward to continuing our work together.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 110-151.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, at this time, we are nearing the end of all the debate. We have finished all the amendments.

Mr. Chairman, my heart is filled with gratitude for the other Members, for our ranking member, Mr. HUNTER, and to our amazing staff. The American people should know what a wonderful staff we have in putting together this defense bill. So many of them have stayed up late at night, early in the morning, all night long to write and make sure that we have the t's crossed and the i's dotted, to make sure that the young men and young women, as well as those who lead the young men and young women, have the tools with which to keep our country safe and, of

course, free. We have a great deal of gratitude for all of them, and I just can't thank them enough.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to my friend from California.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend for yielding. I just want to join with our chairman, IKE SKELTON, in thanking all of our staff, who have done a wonderful job in bringing together hundreds of issues at the subcommittee level, at the full committee level, and now on the House floor, and in these difficult times.

In these partisan times, when we all have to wear our partisan hat at times, this committee, which I think is the most bipartisan committee in the House of Representatives, has done a good job. We have provided good tools, good equipment, good resources for the people that wear the uniform of the United States, and a lot of that should be credited to our chairman, the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. SKELTON.

Many thanks, IKE, for your great work on this bill. I am sure we will have a great vote on it tomorrow, after we present you with an irresistible motion to recommit. I look forward to closing out the bill with you tomorrow. I know you will drive it successfully through the conference.

Thank you for everything that you have done in stitching this thing together. It is important for our troops, and I think we have done a pretty effective job today of moving it down the line. Many thanks.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, I am grateful for the gentleman's comments and grateful for his work.

Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BRALEY of Iowa) having assumed the chair, Mr. ALTMIRE, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1585) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 1585.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE THELMA DRAKE, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable THELMA DRAKE, Member of Congress: