

forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2009 through 2012, having met, have agreed that the Senate recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the House to the text of the concurrent resolution, and agree to the same with an amendment, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the proceedings of the House in the RECORD of Wednesday, May 16, 2007, on page H5071 (Vol. 153, No. 81).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the conference report. The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) is necessarily absent.

Mr. LOTT. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) would have voted "nay".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 172 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Table with 3 columns: Name, Party, and State. Lists Senators who voted 'yea' including Akaka, Baucus, Bayh, Biden, Bingaman, Boxer, Brown, Byrd, Cantwell, Cardin, Carper, Casey, Clinton, Collins, Conrad, Dodd, Dorgan, Durbin, Feingold, Feinstein, Harkin, Inouye, Kennedy, Kerry, Klobuchar, Kohl, Landrieu, Lautenberg, Leahy, Levin, Lieberman, Lincoln, McCaskill, Menendez, Mikulski, and Murray.

NAYS—40

Table with 3 columns: Name, Party, and State. Lists Senators who voted 'nay' including Alexander, Allard, Bennett, Bond, Bunning, Burr, Chambliss, Cochran, Coleman, Corker, Cornyn, Craig, Crapo, DeMint, Domenici, Ensign, Enzi, Graham, Grassley, Gregg, Hagel, Hutchison, Inhofe, Isakson, Kyl, Lott, Lugar, Martinez, McConnell, Murkowski, Roberts, Sessions, Shelby, Specter, Stevens, Thomas, Thune, Vitter, Voinovich, and Warner.

NOT VOTING—8

Table with 3 columns: Name, Party, and State. Lists Senators who did not vote: Brownback, Coburn, Dole, Hatch, Johnson, McCain, Smith, and Sununu.

The conference report was agreed to. Mr. CONRAD. Madam 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. CONRAD. Madam President, I just want to thank all my colleagues who supported this budget resolution. It is a responsible first step to restoring fiscal responsibility and meeting the priority needs of the country.

I thank my colleagues, I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

GENERAL LUTE TO BE ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, we have seen recently where it is the intention of the President to designate Lieutenant General Lute to take a position in the administration as an Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor for Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as working with the National Security Council. I have known this fine officer for some time. I have done an overseas trip with him to Africa. We went down to Liberia at a time of great trouble down there with a change in the administration. I have seen him working on the Joint Staff. I have had the opportunity to be briefed by him. I want to lend my strongest endorsement for this nomination.

I also wish to have printed in the RECORD the history of how active-duty military officers have been assistants to Presidents. I point out, from 1969 to 1970, General Haig was Military Assis-

tant to the Presidential Assistant for National Security Affairs. General Haig then moved up in 1970 to be Deputy National Security Advisor. Then in 1973-1974, he was White House Chief of Staff and, following that, he had other important positions.

General Scowcroft, while on active duty, was Deputy National Security Advisor from 1973 to 1975. Admiral John Poindexter was National Security Advisor from 1983 to 1985, National Security Advisor from 1985 to 1986. Lieutenant General Colin Powell was Deputy National Security Advisor in 1987 and then Colin Powell moved up to National Security Advisor from 1987 to 1989.

I will have printed in the RECORD a list of those individuals who served our Presidents in the past in a comparable way.

I think it would be advisable if the President were to determine that General Lute would have an exemption, a security exemption granted by the President, such that he does not have to respond to the committees of the Congress, to come up as a witness. Otherwise, he should get an annex office up on Capitol Hill to respond to the many inquiries that will be generated here on the Hill and focused on General Lute to make a response. I think he can be more effective to the President if he is given that waiver authority.

I urge my colleagues to look with an open mind at this nomination. I spoke to Chairman LEVIN today. He indicated as soon as the papers were forwarded, our committee, the Senate Armed Services Committee, would review it in the context of our authority to review the change of position and assignments of general and flag officers. It is in that context that we would have a hearing on this nomination. I hope thereafter we can report it to the floor and that the Senate will act favorably upon it.

I thank the Chair for its customary indulgence on this, and thank my colleague from Connecticut. I ask unanimous consent that list be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Table with 5 columns: Rank/name, Position, From, To. Lists military assistants to Presidents including Alexander Haig, Brent Scowcroft, John Poindexter, Colin Powell, Donald Kerrick, and Michael Hayden.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate be in morning business, and each Senator be allowed to speak for no more than 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. DODD. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. DODD pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 207 are located in today's RECORD under "Submission of Concurrent and Senate Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida is recognized.

CONGRATULATING SENATOR CONRAD

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I congratulate Senator CONRAD, the chairman of