

fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2009, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

PERMISSION TO REDUCE TIME FOR ELECTRONIC VOTING DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5658

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during further consideration of H.R. 5658 pursuant to House Resolution 1218, the Chair may reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting under clause 6 of rule XVIII and clauses 8 and 9 of rule XX.

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

There was no objection.

DUNCAN HUNTER NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1218 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5658.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5658) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2009, and for other purposes, with Mr. Ross (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 23 printed in House Report 110-666 by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) had been postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 33 OFFERED BY MR. PEARCE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 33 printed in House Report 110-666.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 33 offered by Mr. PEARCE:
At the end of title XXXI, insert the following:

SEC. 31 . . . INCREASED FUNDING FOR RELIABLE REPLACEMENT WARHEAD PROGRAM.

(a) INCREASE.—The amount in section 3101 for weapons activities, National Nuclear Security Administration, is hereby increased by \$10,000,000, to be available for the Reliable Replacement Warhead program.

(b) OFFSET.—The amount in section 2402 is hereby reduced by \$10,000,000, to be derived

from energy conservation on military installations.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 1218, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. PEARCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to restore a small sum of money into an important program, the Reliable Replacement Warhead program. The RRW is critically important for our national security. Our current nuclear stockpile is aging. As it ages, we must constantly pour more money into maintaining the aging weapons.

We have a choice to make as a Nation: Do we continue to rely on current weapon stockpiles and pay an increasing cost of maintaining the readiness and reliability of these weapons, or do we develop a new line of weapons to replace the current stockpile? The RRW would improve the overall shelf life of a warhead from 30 to over 50 years, and the program is true to its name.

RRW does not pursue new nuclear weapons capabilities. Rather, it pursues making our weapons more reliable, and more reliable weapons will help reduce the maintenance costs of our nuclear stockpile and ensure that we have stable and reliable weapons ready, and most notably, reduce our overall nuclear stockpile by potentially as many as 1,000 warheads.

Without RRW, we will continue to have a larger weapon stockpile. Not pursuing RRW is essentially counterproductive to our stated goals of arms reduction. Not only is my amendment the responsible thing to do for our national security, it's the fiscally responsible choice as well. The current life extension programs that are designed to extend the shelf life of expired warheads are at a great cost to the taxpayer.

I think we should all agree on the goal of reducing our total stockpile of nuclear arms, and if you agree with that goal, then I urge you to adopt my amendment to restore funding for the RRW program, the Reliable Replacement Warhead program.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Pearce amendment to H.R. 5658, the fiscal year 2009 defense authorization bill. The Pearce amendment would restore \$10 million for the Reliable Replacement Warhead that our bill cur-

rently redirects to a more broad-based, advanced certification program. Our bill focuses on sustaining and modernizing the stockpile stewardship program, the core of this Nation's effort to ensure that our nuclear weapons are safe, secure, and reliable.

Before any decisions are made about RRW, we must first answer fundamental questions about our strategic posture and nuclear weapons policies. That's why Congress established the bipartisan Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States in last year's National Defense Authorization Act.

The Commission's report, due in several months, and the nuclear posture review required of the next administration will help frame the looming decisions about sustaining our nuclear deterrent and modernizing the nuclear weapons complex.

One day, something like RRW may be part of a stockpile stewardship program. But no funds were appropriated to conduct the RRW design and cost study last year, and this year's request did not include nearly enough to complete the study. In this context, the committee-approved bill shifts \$10 million requested for RRW to advance certification and authorizes the National Nuclear Security Administration to address questions raised by the JASON panel last year about the challenge of certifying RRW without underground testing.

The Pearce amendment offset is also a big problem. The offset is a \$10 million cut to the DOD Energy Conservation Investment Program, or ECIP. The Department of Defense uses ECIP to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, increase the use of renewable energy and meet national energy policy goals. And ECIP works. Its projects have a nearly 2-to-1 savings to investment ratio on average. A \$10 million reduction would be a 12½ percent cut to ECIP.

Our bill, H.R. 5658, takes a prudent, sound approach to stewardship of our Nation's nuclear deterrent.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the Pearce amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Chairman, I would yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman for bringing this amendment, and we lament the fact that our nuclear warheads are getting older, that we don't have a testing regime in place any longer and that that necessarily deteriorates the reliability factor. So the idea was let's build a reliable replacement warhead, and the fact that we haven't proceeded down that path is really a tragedy.

Now, I know the gentleman has \$10 million in this amendment for this Reliable Replacement Warhead. He takes some money from the energy conservation program, which has many, many good aspects. I know that some Members are torn between these two important goals, one of developing energy