

overseas contingency operations, \$550 million for predator drones, \$228 million for Fire Scout unmanned aerial systems, \$784 million for unmanned aerial systems.

In the operations and maintenance accounts, the Appropriations Committee transferred over \$6.2 billion for items that were requested in the base budget to the “off-budget” overseas contingency operations funding, including \$3 billion for Army depot maintenance, \$495 million for Navy depot maintenance—it goes on and on.

In the military personnel accounts, another \$529 million was transferred from the defense budget, where it was requested, to the overseas contingency operations budget so it would count as “defense savings.”

This is pure budget gimmickry. It is about time we got serious about cutting spending. Using budget gimmicks to shift over \$10 billion from the base defense budget to the emergency account we have set aside for support of overseas contingency operations is not saving the taxpayers a dime. Cutting \$10 billion from the President’s request for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, shifting over \$10 billion in nonwar expenses, and then claiming in a press release—they had the gall in a press release—that the President’s request for the warfighting accounts is fully supported is not only a gimmick, it is dishonest with the American people. It is a disservice to the men and women of the military who depend on that funding for critical warfighting equipment and support.

I have talked to many of our senior commanders in Iraq and members of the Iraqi Government during repeated trips to Iraq this year. All of them have recommended that the United States maintain at least 10,000 soldiers beyond December 31, 2011. There is no money in the warfighting accounts for, if we have, additional troops. So because of the administration’s delay in any decision for any additional troops, understandably, that is not funded in these bills, which is required, obviously, by October 1, the end of the fiscal year.

What will also put our troops, our national security, and our Nation at grave risk is the specter of even more drastic defense cuts should the recommendations of the joint select committee fail to gather enough congressional support.

Secretary of Defense Panetta warned last week that the failure of lawmakers to agree on debt ceiling talks, which would trigger up to \$600 billion in additional Pentagon budget cuts, could add 1 percentage point to the Nation’s jobless rate. He also called the impact of cuts of that magnitude “devastating” to our Armed Forces.

The citizens of my State—and nearly every other State in the Nation—have been struggling through record unemployment rates and unprecedented fiscal pressures. Now, more than ever,

they need strong leadership to make tough decisions to restore fiscal discipline and responsibility in Federal spending. I am committed to using every power available to me to ensure the Defense bill for 2012 provides spending for only the most critical national security requirements, as proposed by the President and defense leadership. In this regard, the Defense appropriations bill that has been reported from the Appropriations Committee is sadly lacking.

There is plenty of blame to go around. I do not fault just the appropriators. We have all failed to do our jobs. The answer to this problem is to fix it. We must stop authorizing on appropriations legislation without the agreement of the authorizing committee. The appropriations bills should reflect the will of the authorizing committees. I intend to work with my colleagues to remedy this problem so the will and wisdom of all Senators—not just a select few—is represented when we pass appropriations legislation.

A solution to this problem is long overdue, and I intend to fight to see that it is solved.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXTENDING THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2832, which the clerk will report by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2832) to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid (for Casey) amendment No. 633, to extend and modify trade adjustment assistance.

Hatch amendment No. 641 (to amendment No. 633), to make the effective date of the amendments expanding the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program contingent on the enactment of the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act, the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act, and the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

AMENDMENT NO. 625 TO AMENDMENT NO. 633

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I have an amendment at the desk, No. 625. I

ask unanimous consent that it be made the pending business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arizona [Mr. McCAIN] proposes an amendment numbered 625 to amendment No. 633.

Mr. McCAIN. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To extend trade adjustment assistance as in effect before the enactment of the Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance of 2009)

Strike title II and insert the following:

TITLE II—TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE.

Title II of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2271 et seq.) (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act and without regard to any substitution made by section 1893(b) of the Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2009 (19 U.S.C. 2271 note prec.)) is amended—

(1) in section 245, by striking “2007” and inserting “2014”;

(2) in section 246(b)(1), by striking “the date that is 5 years” and all that follows through “State” and inserting “December 31, 2014”;

(3) in section 256(b), by striking “each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007, and \$4,000,000 for the 3-month period beginning October 1, 2007” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2012 through 2014, and \$4,000,000 for the 3-month period beginning October 1, 2014”;

(4) in section 285, by striking “2007” each place it appears and inserting “2014”; and

(5) in section 298(a)—
(A) by striking “2003 through 2007” and inserting “2012 through 2014”; and

(B) by striking “October 1, 2007” and inserting “October 1, 2014”.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, the amendment would authorize the continuation of trade adjustment assistance or TAA for 2 additional years at the level of funding the program maintained prior to the 2009 stimulus package addition. Prior to the stimulus, passed by this body in 2009, the TAA Program cost taxpayers about \$1 billion per year.

The passage of the stimulus package, which was advertised to be a temporary injection into the economy—a temporary injection—the stimulus was increased and expanded to the program at a cost of about \$2 billion in 2010; according to the Department of Labor estimates, \$2.4 billion in 2011, if the stimulus expansions were allowed to remain in place.

I would remind my colleagues that with the stimulus package, these were a one-time deal, and once the money was spent, then those programs lapsed. Apparently not so with the TAA Program. We do not yet have a cost score for the Reid substitute before us, but estimates indicate the TAA agreement may lock in at least 65 percent of the 2009 stimulus expansions for the next several years.