

agreement. With this bill we will help reverse 15 straight years of decreased defense budgets in real terms.

As a new member of this subcommittee, I am particularly pleased with the growing investment that we make in our national security with this bill. Specifically, this bill provides \$15.5 billion more than was appropriated in 1999. This money is desperately needed to keep our troops combat ready and our research and development efforts on track to ensure that our soldiers are equipped with the best technology available.

I would especially like to commend my colleagues, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) for their hard work and guidance throughout this entire year. This committee's leadership made the tough choices so that crucial funding is provided to protect our Nation and keep our troops safe and successful in the field.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has no greater duty than to ensure that our brave young men and women who put their lives on the line for our country have the resources they need to do their job safely and successfully. In addition, Mr. Speaker, I thank the capable and knowledgeable staff of the committee who assisted all of us in putting this legislation together.

I support this rule of this bill, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Defense Appropriations bill for FY 2000 and ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, the Defense Appropriations bill, H.R. 2561, provides a total of \$266 billion for the Department of Defense while at the same time meeting the goals continued in the 1997 balanced Budget Agreement. As a member of this Subcommittee, I am particularly pleased with the growing investment that we make in our Nation's security. Specifically, this bill provides \$15.5 billion dollars more than was appropriated in 1999. This money is desperately needed to keep our troops combat ready and our research and development efforts on track to ensure that our soldiers are equipped with the best technology available.

I would especially like to commend my colleagues, Chairman LEWIS and Ranking member MURTHA, for their hard work and assistance throughout this year. This Committee's leadership made the tough choices so that crucial funding is provided to protect our nation and keep our troops safe and successful in the field. Mr. Chairman, Congress has no greater duty than to ensure that our brave, young men and women, who put their lives on the line for our country, have the resources they need to do their job safely and successfully.

In addition, let me thank the capable and knowledgeable staff of the Defense Committee who assisted all of us in putting this legislation together.

While the decisions made in this bill were not easy, I believe that they were the right de-

isions. With this legislation, we will help reverse 15 straight years of decreasing defense budgets in real terms. Despite the end of the Cold War, we still find American troops deployed all across the globe, from Eastern Europe to Asia to Africa. Mr. Chairman, I am proud of the job our troops have done and I am especially proud that this bill provides funding for the needed 4.8 percent pay raise for our troops.

H.R. 2561 also puts a great emphasis on the readiness and modernization of our military. With rogue nations like Iraq and North Korea developing advanced military technology, now is not the time to shortchange our nation's military readiness. Unfortunately, that is exactly what has been happening over the last several years. For evidence of this worrisome situation, we need only consider the effect that the Kosovo mission has had on our current obligations in the Persian Gulf and elsewhere. The Committee addressed this situation by adding over \$2.3 billion for readiness shortfalls identified by the armed services. This funding will help secure the spare parts needed to keep our military fully operational as they move into the next century.

Finally, let me say a word about the importance of research and development. As we enter the next century, technology, especially the digitalization of weapons systems, will play a critical role in the success of our troops in the field. This bill provides \$37 billion for these activities in order to keep our technological advantage on the battlefield. Much of this important research is done by our civilian workforce, which by any account, is quickly aging. This investment will help to ensure that our technology continues to be on the cutting edge and it will ensure that new qualified researchers can be added to workforce in this important arena.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2561 is a well balanced bill which funds the future readiness and modernization requirements of the DOD, while taking steps to ensure that the quality of life of our service members is maintained and enhanced. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I also urge adoption of this rule and support for the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill (H.R. 2561) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, and that I be permitted to include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

#### LIMITING DEBATE ON BARR OF GEORGIA AMENDMENT NO. 4 TO H.R. 2561, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during consideration of the bill (H.R. 2561) in the Committee of the Whole that, one, all debate time on amendment No. 4 offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARR) and the amendments thereto be limited to 60 minutes, equally divided between the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARR) and myself; and two, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARR) be allowed to withdraw the amendment prior to action thereupon.

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

There was no objection.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 257 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2561.

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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 consideration of the bill (H.R. 2561) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, with Mr. CAMP in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise first to ask the membership for their support for this very important bill. It involves the national defense of our country. In doing so, Mr. Chairman, I would like to express my personal appreciation to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have been not just cooperative, but who have been truly professional in the best possible sense in presenting their viewpoints regarding a number of items that are very important and will consider as we go forward with the debate.