CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE
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from Virginia, and our ranking member, the Senator from Michigan, for their hard work on this bill. I have to add all the staff that worked very hard too.

It is a huge authorization, as you know, Mr. President. It represents 16 percent of the total expenditures of our Government, for the Department of Defense. We fund and try to prepare for the finest military and strongest military operations in the world; over a million men and women—1.4 million active-duty men and women. This bill has provided, because of the hard work on both sides of the aisle, some significant and much-needed increases to support our men and women, to help our forces be even more ready, more professional, better trained and better prepared for all the new threats that we face today.

So I thank them for their work, and acknowledge that in this bill that received an overwhelming vote, we had one of the largest increases of expenditures for the readiness of those active forces that has to help make our salaries more competitive with the booming economy we are currently enjoying here in the United States.

Thanks to the leadership of our great colleague from Georgia, Senator CLELAND, we were able to add some additional funding for GI benefit expansions, the first in over two generations, so the men and women in our armed services can share those benefits with their spouses and their children, improving educational opportunities across the board.

There are many other provisions funding the increase in technology, the first downpayment on our missile defense system, which has come a little bit too late, but is right on time for others. I think it is the right step for our Nation.

I join my colleagues in thanking the leadership that has brought this bill to final passage today. There is more work to be done. There were some disappointments, obviously some shortcomings, but no piece of legislation is perfect. We will have opportunities to work in the future, as this Congress progresses.

But the floor was so busy earlier today I waited until now to take this opportunity, but I did not want this day to end without noting the historic event that took place today with the indictment of Yugoslavian President Milosevic by the International War Crime Tribunal. As was recorded earlier, Justice Louise Arbour announced that he and his four deputies and military leaders have in fact been indicted for the atrocities they have committed. This body passed almost unanimously—a resolution unanimously for those present—a resolution earlier this week, urging the Tribunal to act, saying the United States will put up what resources are necessary to make sure justice is done; that not only can war criminals be identified, but cases can be built in the proper and legal way so that they can be successfully prosecuted for what has occurred.

I was particularly moved by an article I plan to pass around to the Members of the Senate and to send to family and supporters around the Nation, written by Carol Williams of the Los Angeles Times. That reported in horrific detail some of the crimes being committed against the Kosovars. What was particularly troubling in this article was her focus on the systemic use of rape as a weapon of war.

She recounted in great detail the experiences of a group of young women, young girls—very young, 12, 13, 14 and 15—who had been violated over and over again; sometimes, as she outlined the facts, longer distances—well more distance—but not sight or comfort—of parents. In this particular part of the world, though, what makes this doubly horrific and horrifying and tough is that victims of rape often accuse themselves. If they themselves committed the crime. There is shame that is brought, in this particular culture, to them and to their families. So after having barely lived, surviving this ordeal, they are then turned away, in many instances, from their fathers, their mothers, their brothers, their sisters.

So there is a tremendous injustice that is occurring. Many of the women in the Senate talked at great length today about this and were joined by our colleagues in various meetings throughout the day.

I just want to say, as we break for this Memorial Day, that while we may take a few days of rest from our work, as one Senator, I am prepared to come back and daily, weekly, monthly and for years if necessary, continue to come to this floor and talk about war crimes and justice and holding people accountable. Had we done a better job of this in Bosnia, I think we could have perhaps prevented the atrocities we are seeing in Kosovo today.

I hope the international community in every way—whether it is a large country or small country, and the people in the United States—will let their elected officials know we want these war criminals prosecuted, we want justice brought to these families, and we want the resources and the comfort and counseling available to these young women—women of all ages—who have lived through the horror and the terror of what has been wrought in that part of the world.

Thank God we live in this country. It is not perfect, terrible things have happened, but I can say on the eye of this world how proud I am and mindful and grateful of the great sacrifice that has been made by men and women in uniform who have given their lives so that we, in this country, can live in relative peace and prosperity without fear of being pulled from our homes at night, having our homes burned and our family members violated or executed.

We have gone through periods of history of which we are not proud. But I am proud of the work this Congress does in putting forth legislation and finances to support efforts that are so important, like the one in which we are engaged. We will not stop until we have a military victory. We will not stop until the diplomatic means have been accomplished. We will not stop until we have been able to help the Kosovars move back into their nation and help this part of Europe become the mainstream of Europe so they can live in peace, prosperity, and democracy and, finally, until justice is done to the women, children, and families who have been so barbarically handled in the last several months.

Again, I thank the leadership for their good work on this legislation. I thank the Chair.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 7, 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in adjournment, in accordance with the provisions of S. Con. Res. 35, until Monday, June 7, 1999, at 12 noon.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 8:36 p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 7, 1999, at 12 noon.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate May 27, 1999:

THE JUDICIARY

Charles R. Wilson, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, vice Joseph W. Hatchett, retired.

Patricia A. Coan, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado vice Zita A. Weinshienk, retired.

Dolly M. Gee, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California vice John G. Davies, retired.

William Joseph Haynes, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee vice Thomas A. Higgins, retired.

Victor Marrero, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York vice Sonia Sotomayor, elevated.

Fredric D. Woocher, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California vice Kim McLean Wardlaw, elevated.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Larry L. Levitan, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of five years. (New Position)

Steve H. Nickles, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of four years. (New Position)

Robert M. Tobias, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of five years. (New Position)

Robert P. Wardlaw, of California, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of five years.