CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE
June 7, 1999

Mr. STEVENS. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amend- 
etment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the end of the general provisions, add the following:

Sect. 8106(a) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 1997 (titles I 
through VIII of the matter under section 101(b) of Public Law 104-208; 110 Stat. 3009- 
111; 10 U.S.C. 113 note), is amended—
(1) by striking "not later than June 30, 1997."; and
(2) by striking "$1,000,000" and inserting "$500,000".

Mr. STEVENS. I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be tempo-

rarily set aside.

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

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for a few minutes in the morning business.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, we have no objection. How long does the Senator desire?

Mr. WELLSTONE. I think I can do this in 5 minutes.

Mr. STEVENS. I remind Members of the Senate desiring to offer amend-

ments that we could discuss today, we are prepared to take some. There will 
be no votes on this bill today, but we do hope to have a vote on an amend-
ment starting in the morning so we can get the bill expedited.

We have no objection to the Sen-

ator's request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sen-

ator from Minnesota.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT F. KENNEDY

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I call the Senate's attention to the fact 
that yesterday, June 6, marked the 31st anniversary of the death of a former 
Member of this body, Senator Robert F. Kennedy. I can think of no more fit-

ting way to remember Robert Ken-

nedy's legacy than to recall some of 
the words he delivered to students at 
the annual Day of Reaffirmation of 
Academic and Human Freedom at the 
University of Cape Town in South Afri-

can.

Ironically, this speech was delivered 
June 6, 1966, just 2 years before Robert 
Kennedy's death. I will read portions of 
the speech:

Our answer is . . . to rely on youth. The 
cruelties and obstacles of this swiftly chang-
ing planet will not yield to obsolete dogmas and 
outworn slogans. It cannot be moved by 
those . . . who prefer the illusion of security 
to the excitement and danger which comes 
with even the most peaceful progress. 

This world demands the qualities of youth; 
a time of life but also a state of mind, a tem-
por of the will, a quality of the imagination, a 
predominance of courage over timidity, of the 
appetite for adventure over the love of 

ease . . . . These [people] moved the world, and so can we all.

I am reading portions of the speech.

Few will have the greatness to bend his-

tory itself but each of us is asked to change 
a small portion of events, and in the total of 
all those acts will be written the history of 
this generation.

This is perhaps my favorite quote from 
what anyone has ever said.

It is from numberless diverse acts of 
courage and belief that human history is shaped. 
Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or 
acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes 
out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny 
ripple of hope, and crossing each other from 
a million different centers of energy and dar-
ing those ripples build a current which can 
sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression 
and resistance.

Robert Kennedy's brother, our col-

league, Senator Ted Kennedy, has said 
that his brother "need not be idealized 
or enlarged in death beyond what he 
was in life, to be remembered simply as a 
good and decent man who saw wrong 
and tried to right it, saw suffering and 
tried to heal it, saw war and tried to 
stop it." I do not presume to improve upon ei-
	her Robert Kennedy's own words or 
upon his brother's tribute. I recall the 
words today only to mark June 6, 1968, 
as a tragic and sad day in the history of 
our country. As Ted has said, to 
pray that what Robert Kennedy "was to 
us and what he wished for others 
will some day come to pass for all the 
world." I yield the floor, and I suggest the ab-

sence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The 
clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk pro-

cceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for an addi-
tional 5 minutes to speak as in morn-
ing business.

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

VETERANS

Mr. WELLSTONE. I listened to my 
colleague, Senator Inouye, in his open-
ing remarks. He reminded me of an 
issue that I think is extremely impor-
tant. Over this Memorial Day recess, 
the DAV, Disabled American Veterans, 
organized a big forum in Minnesota. I 
think they had 130 forums over the re-
cess period. The veterans wanted to 
focus attention on our commitment— 
hopefully, our commitment—to vet-

erans.

They were saying there is a whole set 
of issues that are really important to 
their lives. Some of them have to do 
with the over-aging veteran's popu-
lation and how we will deal with these 
needs. Some of them have to do with 
veterans, a third of the homeless popu-
lation being veterans, which I think is

World War II, the "ancient" war. In 
that war, over 10 percent of our Na-
tion's population stepped forward to 
put on the uniform of the armed serv-
ices. Today, fewer than 1 percent have 
done so.

Today's military force is an All Vol-
unteer Force. But beyond that, there 
are other vast differences.

In World War II, only 4 percent of 
my regiment had dependents. The remain-
ing 96 percent were single men. Today, 
the average is about 70 percent with de-
pendents. Therefore, it is essential that 
we provide in areas that were not con-
sidered during World War II, such as 
day care centers and hospitals.

In the hospital in which Senator Str-
vens and I spent some time, there were 
just men—men in uniform. It may be of 
interest to Members to note that today 
at Walter Reed, 14 percent of the beds 
are occupied by active-duty personnel, 
and 86 percent are occupied by depend-
ents and retirees. There are more gyne-
cologists in hospitals today than ortho-
ped surgeons, and there are more pe-
diatricians than orthopedic surgeons. 
That is a difference of which most 
Members of the Senate, and I believe 
most Americans, are not aware.

The largest cost of defense is not 
missiles; it is not bullets; it is not ships; it is personnel; it is people. If we 
want the best military, men and 
women who are willing to step forward 
in harm's way and, if necessary, give 
their lives for our Nation, then we 
should be able to provide the very 
best—not just in pay, but make certain 
that their health care and educational 
system are the finest.

We use the phrase "quality of life" 
quite often. If quality of life is not 
what the people receive, then I don't 
think we can anticipate the very best 
from what anyone has ever said.
just a national disgrace. Many of those veterans are struggling with substance abuse problems and they were saying: Where is the treatment for these veterans? But some of what they were saying was, even if you put aside some of these challenges and the flatline budget proposed by the President—and then they were looking at our budget resolution and what we have come up with—it doesn’t even keep up with medical inflation.

The point was: We are worried about access to services. We are worried about much longer waits. We are worried about a lot of the staffs at medical centers having to work double shifts. We are worried about some of the facilities having to close. We are worried about not being able to get the care that we so desperately need and, I argue so clearly.

I just wanted to say, since I heard my colleague from Hawaii speak—as he knows, I am critical of the Pentagon budget. I admire the Senator from Hawaii, and I absolutely mean that, but I don’t usually agree with some portions. As long as we are talking about our Armed Forces, I hope when we get to the veterans appropriations bill, we will get this right, and I hope we will make the investment we should make. There is a considerable amount of indignation on the part of veterans. And they are right; I wish they were wrong, but I have had a chance to see some of this firsthand. They just feel a sense of betrayal. I hope we are going to rectify what I think is a real injustice to veterans.

WELFARE REFORM

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, the other matter I wanted to bring up is the amendment to the DOD authorization bill which lost on a 50–49 vote. I don’t know whether I will do an amendment on this bill or whether I will wait for the bankruptcy bill, but my amendment had to do with the compelling need for all of us as responsible policymakers to do some systematic and systemic evaluation of what is going on with welfare reform.

I want to know about those mothers and those children. I have come to the floor and I have said it is fine that we have reduced the caseload by a third, or thereabouts, but the question is: has the reduction in welfare led to a reduction in poverty? Where are the women and children? What kind of jobs do they have? What kind of wages do they earn? Is there decent child care?

I bring to the attention of my colleagues the General Accounting Office report of May 27, 1999, and I point out a quote on page 2 at the beginning of this report:

Because there are no Federal requirements for States to report on the status of former welfare recipients, the only systematic data currently available on families who have left welfare is from research efforts initiated by States to meet their own information needs.

Then they go on to point out that only States currently provide adequate data. So I will be coming to the floor again and taking up a considerable amount of time. I will be drawing from a lot of reports about some pretty brutal conditions, because I am determined to win this vote. I really do believe that it is not too much to ask that the Senate—for that matter, the House of Representatives—go on record calling on the Secretary of Health and Human Services to call on States to provide the data as to what is happening to these families. Yes, they are poor families, and I understand that. What has to be done on welfare is to be despised in America, but I think we ought to know what is going on with these women and children. That is what we are talking about—women and children.

So I thought about it. I had a moment; I would announce that maybe on this bill, or maybe on the next bill. I am going to come back with this amendment, and I will bring out some of the important reports by the Conference of Mayors, the Catholic Church’s Network Organizations, which does some wonderful work, and what the Conference of State Legislatures is saying, and the reports on the rise of homelessness with a special emphasis on the population of women and children. Then, after going through all of that, and also talking about some of my own observations as a Senator who has done a lot of work with low- and moderate-income people, one more time, I will call on the Senate to vote for this very reasonable amendment.

We ought to know what is going on in the country. It is irresponsible for us not to have the information to see whether or not this legislation is really working. I say that because pretty soon, over the next couple of years, we are going to reach a drop-dead date where, in all of the States—5 years being the maximum period of time from when we pass this bill—everybody is going to be driven off the rolls. There is going to be no assistance any longer. Of course, we are talking about a lot of women who have been battered, who have struggled with substance abuse, and who have struggled with mental illness. It is not clear whether they are going to be able to work or what will happen to them and their children. It is not at all clear what is happening right now to some women and children in this country. Have we made it possible for them to move to economic self-sufficiency, to live more independent lives?

I say to the Chair, who cares an awful lot about children, are these children better off? We need to know. I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues that I want to come back with this amendment, and I am hoping that a couple of Senators, this time around, will be willing to vote for it on a different piece of legislation.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 112

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, with clearance on both sides of the aisle, I ask unanimous consent that at 9:30 a.m., on Tuesday, the Senate resume consideration of the defense appropriations bill and there be 15 minutes remaining for debate relative to amendment No. 540, and at the hour of 9:45 a.m. the Senate proceed to vote on the amendment, with no amendments in order to the Grassley amendment.

I further ask that all first-degree amendments to the defense appropriations bill must be offered by 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, and that at the hour of 2:15 p.m. Senator INOUYE be recognized to offer and lay aside amendments on behalf of Members on his side of the aisle, and at 2:20 p.m. Senator STEVENS be recognized to offer and lay aside amendments for Members on the Republican side of the aisle, and that all amendments must be relevant to the defense appropriations bill and subject to relevant second-degree amendments.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, under this agreement, a rollcall vote will occur at 9:45 a.m. on Tuesday, and all first-degree amendments must be offered by 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

I thank all Senators for their cooperation.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Y2K ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to S. 96 regarding the Y2K legislation.

Mr. INOUYE. Mr. President, in behalf of my leader, I object.