June 7, 1999

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

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 come 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. But it has to be on welfare 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 to myself: 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 has done 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, 2000

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 rollover 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.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to S. 99, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to the Y2K legislation:

Trent Lott, John McCain, Rod Grams, Mike Crapo, Bill Frist, Mike Enzi, Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Judd Gregg, Strom Thurmond, Chuck Hagel, Rick Santorum, Paul Coverdell, Bob Smith, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Wayne Allard, and Charles E. Grassley.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, this cloture vote will occur on Wednesday 1 hour after the Senate convenes unless an additional consent is granted. I now withdraw the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to proceed is withdrawn.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business after senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE CIVIL AFFAIRS CORPS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, on June 1, 1989, the Department of the Army by General Order No. 22 established and placed the United States Army Reserve Civil Affairs Corps under the U.S. Army Regional System, effective June 16, 1989, with its regimental home base at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The Home Base Commander is currently Major General Kenneth R. Bowra, Commander and Commandant, U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School.

The U.S. Army Regional System was created by Army Regulation 600–82 “to enhance combat effectiveness through a framework that provides the opportunity for staff training, develops loyalty and commitment, fosters an extended sense of belonging, improves unit esprit, and institutionalizes the war fighting ethos to provide each soldier with a continuous identification with a single regiment.”

On June 16, 1989, an activation ceremony for the Corps was conducted during the Civil Affairs Association Annual Conference in Pensacola, Florida.

At that time, the Corps distinctive standard was uncased and the Corps insignia adopted. The following designations were included: MG William R. Berkman as Honorary Chief of Civil Affairs; COL Eil E. Nobleman as Honorary Colonel; CSM Raymond A. Lash as Honorary Sergeant Major; COL Joseph P. Kirlin III as Adjutant; and COL Kalman A. Oravetz as Chairman of the Corps Committee.

Since then, the membership in the Corps has spread through all Army Reserve Civil Affairs units and to other Army Reserve soldiers, active and retired, who are or have been in the Civil Affairs Branch. Currently, there are more than 2,200 soldiers who are members of the Corps.

The Corps Committee operates under a charter to provide advice and assistance to the Honorary Chief of Civil Affairs and the Corps Home Base Commander with respect to Corps matters. The Corps Committee presently includes the Chairman, Adjutant, Honorary Colonel, Honorary Warrant Officer, Honorary Sergeant Major, Commanding Generals and Command Sergeant Majors of the five major Civil Affairs commands and other members designated by the Honorary Chief of Civil Affairs. The Home Base Commander and the Honorary Chief of Civil Affairs are ex-officio members. The Committee meets biannually at the times and sites of the meeting of the Civil Affairs Association Board of Directors.

Support to the Corps is provided by the Civil Affairs Association. The Association has existed since its formation in 1947 with a principal purpose to maintain and enhance the Civil Affairs capabilities required by the Armed Forces of our Nation. Support of the Corps is included in the broad objectives of the Association. The Corps and the Association have worked together to implement their common objectives. The efforts of the Corps and Association to enhance Civil Affairs soldiers’ esprit de corps have included:


2. Commemorative Stone. The dedication of a Civil Affairs commemorative stone and its emplacement in the Memorial Plaza of the Head-quarters, U.S. Army Special Operations Command which recognizes the service of soldiers in Civil Affairs/Military Government assignments—past, present, and future.

3. Shrivenham Plaque. The presentation and dedication in 1994 at the British Army Base at Shrivenham, England, of a commemorative plaque to memorialize the organization and marshaling of Civil Affairs and Military Government units in 1944 for World War II operations in Europe.

4. Civil Affairs Exhibits. The preparation and presentation at Civil Affairs conferences of exhibits of historic applications of Civil Affairs doctrine and operations in military operations conducted by the Armed Forces of our Nation.

5. Recognition of Civil Affairs in Military Museums. Currently, planning is underway to support and ensure that military museums have appropriate displays and information about the roles and contributions of Civil Affairs in military operations in our history.

6. Awards Programs—Individuals. Recognition of deserving soldiers and individuals as Distinguished and Honorary Members of the Corps. Award of the Corps Esprit de Corps Medallion has been presented to Corps members and notables. The first medallion was presented to Senator Strom THURMOND who served in combat in World War II as a Civil Affairs Enlisted man in the Army Reserve, commanded major Civil Affairs units and retired as a Major General.

7. Awards Programs—Units. Distinguished Unit Citations have been awarded to Civil Affairs units in recognition of their accomplishments and contributions in military operations in Grenada, Panama, Somalia, the Persian Gulf War and Haiti. Units currently participating in military operations in Bosnia and those relating to Kosovo will be recognized.

Mr. President, the U.S. Army Reserve Civil Affairs Corps, with support of the Civil Affairs Association, is fulfilling the objectives and purposes of the Army Regional System. I congratulate both the officers and soldiers of the Civil Affairs Corps for their service to our Nation and the Association for its support of the men and women who proudly wear the insignia of the Civil Affairs Corps.

RETIREMENT OF DONALD E. MEINERS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, on July 1, my friend, Donald Meiners, will retire from Entergy-Mississippi after 39 years of service. Mr. Meiners began his career in 1960 as a residential salesman in Jackson for what was then Mississippi Power & Light Company. He was quickly promoted in the marketing and operations divisions which involved numerous moves across the state of Mississippi. He became an officer in 1978. After promotions with Middle South Utilities, the parent company of MP&L, which now is Entergy Corporation, Don returned to his home state of Mississippi as president and chief operating officer of Entergy-MS. Then, he became president and chief executive officer.

While Mr. Meiners is well respected in the corporate world, many Mississippians know him for his dedication and