

**SENATE—Wednesday, June 16, 1999**

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Sovereign God, help us to see our work here in Government as our divine calling and mission. Whatever we are called to do today, we want to do our very best for Your glory. Our desire is not just to do different things but to do some of the same old things differently: with freedom, joy, and excellence. Give us new delight for matters of drudgery, new patience for people who are difficult, new zest for unfinished details. Be our lifeline in the pressures of deadlines, our rejuvenation in routines, and our endurance whenever we feel enervated. May we spend more time talking to You about issues than we do talking to others about issues. So may our communion with You give us such deep convictions that we will have the high courage to defend them. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us so that we may serve You with renewed dedication today. Through our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

**RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT of Mississippi, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Chair.

**SCHEDULE**

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the Senate will begin now 10 minutes of debate on S. 1205, the military appropriations construction bill, followed by 20 minutes of debate on S. 331, the work incentives legislation. Votes on passage of those two bills will begin at approximately 10:45. Following those votes, the Senate will begin debate on the motion to invoke cloture on the House-passed Social Security lockbox legislation for 1 hour, with that vote to begin after all time has expired or been yielded back.

It is expected that the Senate will complete the energy and water appropriations bill during today's session of the Senate as well as resume consideration of H.R. 1664 regarding the steel, oil, and gas revolving loan.

I presume the vote on the Social Security lockbox legislation will occur around 12:30 or so. So we have two votes then, at approximately 10:45 and another one at 12:30, and then we probably will have at least one more,

maybe two, with regard to the energy and water appropriations bill, and then we will go back to the oil and gas revolving fund.

I yield the floor.

**RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME**

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

**MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of S. 1205 which the clerk will report.

The legislative assistant clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1205) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 10 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form with an additional 5 minutes for the Senator from Arizona, Mr. MCCAIN.

The distinguished Senator from Montana is recognized.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I will have to ask some of the staff but I think Mr. MCCAIN will not be present to make his statement this morning. I will make mine, and then we will work that out later.

I am pleased to bring before the Senate the military construction appropriations bill and report for fiscal year 2000. The bill reflects a bipartisan approach that the ranking member, Senator MURRAY of the State of Washington, and I have tried to maintain regarding military construction and this subcommittee.

This isn't the first year we have put this bill together. We are getting to be old hands at it. But I want to say personally it is a pleasure to work with the Senator and her staff. It seems as if we have a lot of luck in working out some of the problems some people would run into before we ever get the bill to the floor. So those problems are taken care of. I appreciate the attitude and manner in which we have worked together on this bill.

This bill was reported out of the full Appropriations Committee on June 10 by a unanimous vote of 28 to nothing. The bill recommended by the full Committee on Appropriations is \$3,273,820,000.

The administration submitted the fiscal year 2000 military construction

budget with all of the military construction and family housing projects incrementally funded over a 2-year period. We are finding that some of that is working and some of it is not, and we will probably be looking at this in a different light in another year.

To have proceeded in this manner would have demonstrated a poor financial stewardship on the part of the Senate and placed the Department's 2000 military construction program in great jeopardy. That is the reason we are taking a look at it. The subcommittee rejected that recommendation and provided full funding for all of the construction projects.

Accordingly, the bill is \$2.8 billion over the budget request, but the bill is still \$176 million less than what was appropriated just a year ago. However, more important, the legislation reflects a reduction of \$1.7 billion from just 3 years ago.

We have sought to recommend a balanced bill to the Senate. We believe it addresses key military construction requirements for readiness, family housing, barracks, quality of life, and of course we do not want to forget our Guard and our Reserve components.

This bill honors the commitment we have to our Armed Forces. It helps ensure that the housing and infrastructure needs of the military are given proper recognition.

Also, I am pleased to report to the Senate that the bill is within the committee's 302(b) budget allocations for both budget authority and outlays.

This bill has some points I want to mention. We have added \$485 million above the budget request to provide better and more modern family housing for our service personnel and their families.

Just less than a month ago, we opened a new housing unit at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana. I said at that time, and I still mean it, there is no better way to send a strong message to our fighting men and women than to provide them with good housing in a good atmosphere and the greatest way we can say we care.

On another quality of life measure, we added substantially to the budget request for barracks construction projects, some \$587 million for 47 projects throughout the United States and overseas.

I say right now to the American people, we have American troops deployed in over 70 countries around the world.

This funding will provide single service members a more favorable living environment wherever they are stationed.