

Armed Services Committee has graciously agreed with us and authorized this amount in the Defense Authorization Act—and I thank the Committee, and particularly Senator WARNER, for their assistance.

In the upcoming Defense Appropriations bill, Senator STEVENS has been particularly understanding of the Air Force's need of the Extended Range Cruise Missile and has worked with me to provide appropriations for this program. I want to offer him a personal thanks for his support of this vital program. I truly appreciate his efforts.

However, I have been informed that in order to start the process and see these important weapons are in the hands of our troops, additional funds will be needed. In order to rectify this problem, I plan on offering an amendment to increase the available funds for the Extended Range Cruise Missile program by \$23 million so that work can begin on the new cruise missile. This will bring the total amount to \$43 million, which is half of the authorized amount and enough to start development on this important missile.

Mr. President, again I want to thank Senator WARNER and Senator STEVENS for their continued and tireless service to our nation's defense.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now turn to H.R. 4576, the House DOD appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DODD. Will the majority yield? Is there a pending amendment on the DOD authorization bill?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is a pending amendment offered by Senator SMITH.

Mr. LOTT. That is the first-degree amendment that was amended with the second-degree amendment. But then I believe after that would be the Dodd amendment.

Mr. DODD. I wish it were a Dodd amendment. I was curious about Senator WARNER's amendment. That is what I was curious about.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank the Senator. We have that Warner-Dodd amendment on the Cuban commission at the desk. Had we remained on this bill, it would be my intention to ask that it be the pending issue. That is now moot.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the unanimous consent request?

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I ask unanimous consent that we amend it to allow the Warner amendment to be the next amendment to be considered following the Smith amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Is there objection to the underlying request?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor, Mr. President.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4576) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, for the information of Members, we will have opening statements, and then we will have an amendment offered by the Senator from Iowa, Mr. GRASSLEY.

On behalf of the leader, I make this statement. We are now on the DOD appropriations bill. After our opening statements, Senator GRASSLEY is prepared to talk about his accounting amendment. We expect to have a vote at 9:30 on that amendment tomorrow morning. There will no more votes for the remainder of the day.

Mr. President, I am pleased to join my great friend, Senator INOUE, in presenting the Defense appropriations bill to the Senate. This bill is for the fiscal year 2001. It represents the twelfth bill we have jointly brought before the Senate: Six were presented by my friend from Hawaii during the period of time when he was the chairman of the subcommittee, and now this is the sixth bill presented by me during the second opportunity I have had to chair this subcommittee.

First and foremost, the bill reported by our committee, in our opinion, meets all personnel, readiness, training, and quality-of-life priorities for the armed services.

We have fully funded the pay raise and new authorized recruiting and retention benefits. All estimated costs of contingency operations for 2001 in Kosovo, Bosnia, and southwest Asia are included in our recommendation. There should not be an emergency supplemental for known contingency operations in the year 2001 for the Department of Defense.

The bill before the Senate sustains and augments the efforts to accelerate modernization of our Armed Forces.

Significantly, the recommendation provides an additional \$250 million for the Army's transformation initiative.

I join my friend from Hawaii in commending General Shinseki for his foresight and leadership in moving the Army forward into a more deployable global force. These funds should accel-

erate the fielding of the initial transformation brigades in 2001.

Our committee, consistent with the Defense authorization bill as presented to the Senate, adds funds for several missile defense programs. Mr. President, \$139 million is added for the national missile defense research and development, \$92.4 million for the airborne laser, and \$60 million for the Navy theaterwide missile defense efforts.

This is the crossroads year for missile defense. These funds are consistent with the recommendations and priorities of General Kadish, who manages this program, for the fiscal year 2001.

A new initiative recommended in this bill is to transfer funding for the C-17 program to a new national defense airlift fund.

Several years ago, funding for sealift acquisition was transferred to a central account. Airlift is a key strategic capability. The need for that is shared by all military services. Funding for airlift should not be borne solely by the Air Force, just as funding for sealift is not now borne by the Navy.

Full funding is provided in this new account for 12 C-17 aircraft requested for 2001, and the advance procurement and interim contract logistics support submitted in the budget.

The bill presented by the subcommittee includes report language that directs the Department to proceed with the current acquisition strategy to select a single design based upon the flight test program.

The Joint Strike Fighter might be the single most important defense program this committee will consider in the next 10 years. We must get this one right. Industrial base concerns should only be addressed after we are sure we have selected the best aircraft at the best cost for the mission and not before we even select the winner of the competition.

When the committee met to report the bill, several Members raised with me the subcommittee's recommendation to defer full funding on the two LPD-17 class vessels requested in the budget.

The bill before us includes \$200 million in advance appropriations for the two ships originally planned for fiscal year 2001. Also, it includes \$285 million to pay for cost overruns incurred on the first four ships.

I want to restate, as I have in both Maine and Louisiana in the past week, my personal commitment to the LPD-17 program. The focus of the adjustment we recommend is to get the program back on track with a stable design and address prior year problems. The funds provided are intended to assure that there will be no interruption in the work at the two shipyards and no additional delay in construction or delivery of the ships.

At the markup, language was added by Senator COCHRAN and Senator