there is one in New York and also one in Arkansas—go to bid on projects to provide supplies to the military, and they have to go to a defense contractor to build the weapons. Of course, of building those supplies, they also have to add in the cost of their overhead. That means in analyzing those bids, the military is always going to prefer the bid of the private contractor.

In fact, our arsenals have been losing business from the U.S. Government. This has been harming taxpayers. The reason it has been harming the taxpayers is because once we pay the private contractor to build the weapon or perform on the contract, we are still paying to keep the arsenals open. So the taxpayers wind up paying twice for the project.

For example, a few years ago the military requested a new Light Towed Howitzer. They wound up giving the bid to a British defense firm. The Rock Island Arsenal lost out on the bid. The Government paid the British defense firm more than the contract, and meanwhile, the Government and the taxpayers are still paying to keep the arsenals open.

My amendment is designed to correct this flaw which is wasting taxpayers' money. From now on, under this amendment, when domestic organic arsenals in this country bid on a military project, they will be able to state their incremental cost for building the product, if it is a Howitzer or other weapon for the military. This way, it will be more fair to the arsenals. They will be able to bid their actual cost and the playing field won't be tilted in favor of the private contractors.

Actually, the Department of Defense convened a defense working capital fund task force a couple of years ago that noted that the taxpayers were being billed twice for these military contractors; that it didn't make any sense. That issue paper which came out on February 25, 1999, and was issued by the defense working capital fund task force, concluded that

"The Department of Defense will ultimately pay twice for maintaining the essential organic capabilities as well as contracting out for the goods or services. It went on to say that these rules cause an artificial, a fictitious bookkeeping entry that overprices the arsenals and not only encourages behavior that is not optimal for the military as a whole, but also leads to an increasing disparity between military and private suppliers that "results in an increasing abandonment of arsenals.""

Mr. President, I compliment the members of the Armed Services Committee and Chairman WARNER and also the ranking member for accepting my amendment. We should be able to help our Nation's arsenals and particularly the Rock Island Arsenal in Rock Island, IL, as well as save the taxpayers of this Nation some of their hard-earned money.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise today to wish the United States Army happy birthday. It was 252 years ago today, in 1775, that the Continental Army of the United States was formed. That Continental Army of the United States has had a rich, important impact on our country.

Millions of men and women over the last 225 years have served in the senior branch of services of our military forces of the U.S. Army. The Army is enworn into the culture of America. Those who have had the great privilege of serving in this country in the U.S. Army understand that. It may have been a little difficult during basic training for some, but as we progressed through basic training and became Army men and women, formed, shaped, and molded from raw recruiting into something that America could be proud of, and we could be proud of ourselves, that touch, that impact, that molding, that shape, has defined our country, has defined our culture, and has, in fact, defined the world. The U.S. Army has had an incredible effect on our country and the world for the better.

"Duty, honor, country" is the motto of the U.S. Army. It is America. It is what the Army has done, often at a tremendous price, as we know. We shouldn't forget that.

It is the Army that has laid the foundation for our services today and for a stronger America. To that, we say, "Duty, honor, country." We recognize and acknowledge and pay tribute to those generations who have served before some of us had the opportunity to serve a newer Army.

"Duty, honor, country" is the motto of the U.S. Army. It is America. It is what the Army has done, often at a tremendous price, as we know. We shouldn't forget that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, UNITED STATES ARMY

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I commend the Senator from Nebraska for his remarks. It is the Army that has laid the foundation for our services today and for a stronger America. To that, we say, "Duty, honor, country." We recognize and acknowledge and pay tribute to those generations who have served before some of us had the opportunity to serve a newer Army.

It is the Army that has laid the foundation for our services today and for a stronger America. To that, we say, "Duty, honor, country." We recognize and acknowledge and pay tribute to those generations who have served before some of us had the opportunity to serve a newer Army.

Mr. President, we say "hoo-ha." The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Take a few moments to commend the Senator from Nebraska for his remarks. I think he speaks for most of us, if not all of us. He speaks eloquently in congratulating the Army. That is something we shouldn't forget. The role of the Army, what the Army stands for, what the Army has done, often at a tremendous price, as we know. We shouldn't forget that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, the pending business before the Senate is the House bill, that is right, or the Senate bill?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, chairman STEVENS and the leader asked us to move quickly on this year's Transportation appropriations bill, and I'm happy to say that with the assistance of the senior Senator from New Jersey, we have reported a bill for the Senate's consideration. I am speaking of the Senate bill now. Considering that the Senate approved the Transportation appropriations bill in September last year, I suppose that presenting this bill during the second full week in June would qualify as moving more quickly this year.

I commend Senator STEVENS and Majority Leader LOTTY for pushing this agenda.

Both Senator LAUTENBERG and I strongly support this package, though neither one of us agrees with every decision and funding level that is included in the bill and report. However, this bill contains the essential elements of a Transportation appropriations bill that meets the challenge of adequately funding the Transportation programs within the budget constraints that we have set for Federal spending in fiscal year 2001.

I will spend a few minutes on the bill funding summary.

The bill provides a total of $54.7 billion, which is $4.7 billion more than the fiscal year 2000 enacted level. Because