June 21, 2000

Mr. Sessions. Mr. President, I send to the Senate from Alabama:

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. McConnell. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess for 2 minutes to have the delegation from the European Parliament be greeted by Senators.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:54 p.m., recessed until 2:01 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. Gregg).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001—Continued

Mr. McConnell. Mr. President, this is a two front war—we need to advance on both fronts. Clearly, we can’t continue the administration’s pattern of ignoring this crisis.

I agree that we should increase education, prevention, and treatment efforts, as well as law enforcement efforts. But, will that effort pay off, if we do so at the expense of attacking the source country problem?

It is pretty clear that after seven years of doing nothing, the administration is trying to play catch up in this crisis.

If we look at trends and commitments, during the Reagan Just-Say-No years, drug production and use plummeted. This trend sharply reversed in 1992 which was exactly when Clinton was asked, “If you had to do it over again, would you have inhaled?” He answered, "Sure, if I could have." Since 1992, and this unfortunate remark, drug use has soared and production has tripled.

We need to attack both fronts in this war—here, at home, and abroad.

I think we have recommended a good balance for the battle abroad.

Let me remind everyone it is a very different package than the request made by the administration—I have much more confidence in the bill before the Senate than I did in the request.

The most important difference is our emphasis on a regional strategy. Just as we saw production spike in Colombia when pressure was applied to traffickers in Peru and Bolivia, I believe we would see the problem shift back to Peru, Bolivia, and to Ecuador if we don’t increase our regional support.

Without compromising vital support for Colombia, we provided $205 million in support to Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and other nations in the region. This more than doubles the administration’s request of $76 million.

A second key difference between the bill and the request is the support we offer for human rights programs. As the tempo of operations against the traffickers pick up, I am concerned that abuse will increase.

Colombia’s judicial system is weak and court officials are regularly threatened making investigations and prosecutions extremely difficult. Moreover, the military has undermined attempts by civilian courts to prosecute officers accused of human rights abuses even though Colombian law requires the transfer of these cases to civilian courts.

To address these concerns we have required certification that the military is complying with their own laws and are cooperating in the pursuit of these cases in civilian court. We also substantially increase aid to government and non-government organizations involved in the protection of human rights.

We paid for these increases by changing the helicopter package. Again, let me say, striking the right balance is the key to our success.

This bill strikes the right balance between domestic and international law enforcement—the right balance between Colombia and the other countries in the region—and the right balance between our support for Colombian law enforcement and Colombian human rights advocates.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. Wellstone. Mr. President, I have a copy of Senator Leahy’s statement. I am going to read a little from Senator Leahy’s statement. This is just a portion of his statement:

I have repeatedly expressed concerns about the administration’s proposal, particularly the dramatic increase in military assistance. I am troubled about what we may be getting into. The administration has yet to give me sufficient details about what it expects to achieve, in what period of time, what the long-term costs are, or what the risks are.

That is, of course, part of the position that a number of us have taken today. I thank Senator Leahy, who has a tremendous amount of expertise in this area, for his statement. He goes on to say:

I commend Senator Wellstone for his amendment. It would provide $225 million for substance abuse prevention and treatment programs in the United States.

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, drug abuse kills 52,000 Americans each year. It costs our society nearly $10 billion annually. It has strained the capacity of our courts, our detention systems, and medical facilities, and brought violence and tragedy to families, schools, and communities throughout this country.

I could not have said it better. Mr. President, 80 percent of adolescents who will, if not provided treatment, sustain the demands for drugs in the future—today in our country cannot get it. Some 50 percent of adults in our country who are in need of a drug treatment program are not receiving it. Many treatment programs have lines out the door.

I yield the floor.

Mr. McConnell. Mr. President, is all time yielded back?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has been yielded back.

Mr. Graham. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McConnell. 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. McConnell. Mr. President, we are going to have two votes shortly. The Senator from Alabama would like to modify his amendment and take just a few moments to describe it. Then the previous plan was to have two votes, back to back. I believe the Senator from Delaware will make a motion to table the Wellstone amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Is that a unanimous consent request?

Mr. McConnell. I ask unanimous consent the Senator from Alabama be recognized for 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Alabama.

AMENDMENT NO. 3492, AS MODIFIED

Mr. Sessions. Mr. President, I send to the Senate from Alabama:

Mr. McConnell. 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. McConnell. Mr. President, we are going to have two votes shortly. The Senator from Alabama would like to modify his amendment and take just a few moments to describe it. Then the previous plan was to have two votes, back to back. I believe the Senator from Delaware will make a motion to table the Wellstone amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Is that a unanimous consent request?

Mr. McConnell. I ask unanimous consent the Senator from Alabama be recognized for 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Alabama.

AMENDMENT NO. 3892, AS MODIFIED

Mr. Sessions. Mr. President, I send a modification to the desk. I would like to share a few thoughts about this situation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment will be modified.
CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Assistance may be given to Colombia in the following:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means the following:

(A) The Committees on Appropriations and Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(B) The Committees on Appropriations and International Relations of the House of Representatives.

(2) ASSISTANCE.—The term “assistance” means assistance appropriated under this heading for fiscal years 2000 and 2001, and provided under the following provisions of law:


(B) Section 1033 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (Public Law 105–85; relating to counter-drug assistance to Colombia and Peru).

(C) Section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act (Public Law 99–628; relating to credit sales).

(D) Section 402 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (Public Law 87–195; relating to international narcotics control).

(E) Section 506 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (Public Law 87–195; relating to emergency drawdown authority).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, the people of Colombia are good people. They maintained a democracy for a long time. There are 40 million people in Colombia. They are our fifth largest trading partner in Latin America. They are struggling with violence that has been going on for 40 years. There are at least two major Marxist-oriented guerrilla groups who control nearly 50 percent of the territory of Colombia. They have attempted repeatedly, through President Pastrana, to negotiate with these guerrillas and have had very little success. In fact, the guerrillas have taken advantage of the good auspices of the people of Colombia and of President Pastrana, and even strengthened their hold on the territory and strengthened their anti-democratic activities.

There are paramilitary groups in the country also who are operating outside the government and are involved in drug trafficking.

The guerrilla organizations sustain themselves through the most active kidnapping in the world. Colombia has the highest number of kidnappings in the world. Its murder rate is probably the highest in the world. The guerrilla groups are involved in drug trafficking, and that is how they make their money to maintain their existence.

I believe, as a former Federal prosecutor who has been involved in studying the drug issue and has prosecuted many cases in the district of Mobile, AL, involving quite a number of Colombian drug dealers and cartel members, we are going to have limited ability containing the drug problem in America through this money. But what we can do with this money and what is critical that we do with this money is strengthen the country of Colombia.

We need to say to them: We support you; we believe in your democracy. The 97-plus percent, as Senator Bures said, of the people in that country support their government, not these guerrilla organizations. They want peace, they want unification, they want economic growth, they want human rights, and they want a rule of law. That cannot be done and we cannot expect Colombia to stop drug trafficking in their nation if 40 percent of the territory is outside their control—50 percent perhaps.

I am distressed that this administration in public statements, in testimony before committee hearings, has refused to say: We support Colombia in their efforts against these guerrilla organizations. They suggest their only motive is to provide money to help knock down drug production in Colombia. That is discrediting to me. Ambassador Pickering testified and I cross-examined him. He said: Our emphasis is drugs.

That is not the basis of what we are doing. We want to help Colombia. We want Colombia to create a peaceful government to take control of its country. We want to encourage strong leadership, the kind of leadership that Abraham Lincoln provided when he unified this country. That is what needs to be done in Colombia to bring this matter to a conclusion once and for all.

If we do not do so, we are pouring new wine in old wine bottles. We are pouring money down a dangerous rat hole.

This amendment says: We support you, Colombia. We believe in you, Colombia. We explicitly endorse and support your efforts through peace negotiations or warfare, if necessary, to unify your country, to bring peace so you can then eliminate the drug trafficking that is occurring there.

Drug trafficking is a major problem in Colombia. It is our No. 1 supplier of cocaine. The cocaine production in Colombia has more than doubled in 5 years. We have gone up 70 percent of the heroin in the United States comes from Colombia. The main reason is the Government of Colombia does not control its territory. There are whole areas of territory outside the control of the government. We should support this country, and this amendment says so explicitly.

Mr. President, do I still have a minute under the agreement?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator’s time has expired.

Mr. SESSIONS. I yield the floor.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Delaware be recognized to offer a tabling motion on the Wellstone amendment and that the vote on or in relation to the Sessions amendment occur immediately after the vote on the Wellstone amendment, and that the time on the Sessions amendment be—

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky has the floor.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Reserving the right to object. What did the Senator ask for?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I will not ask unanimous consent that the time on the Sessions amendment be limited to 10 minutes.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Reserving the right to object. What is the Senator asking for?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I asked unanimous consent that the Senator from Delaware be recognized to offer a tabling motion on the Wellstone amendment and that a vote on or in relation to the Sessions amendment occur immediately after the Wellstone vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I move to table the Wellstone amendment.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to table amendment No. 5518. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 89, nays 11, as follows:

Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to table amendment No. 5518. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 89, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 138 Leg.]

YEAS—89

Abraham

Chafee, L.

Fitzgerald

Akaka

Cleland

Frist

Allard

Cochran

Horton

Akaka

Collins

Inhofe

Anderson

Conrad

Hutchison

Baucus

Cranwell

Hagel

Bayh

Coversdale

Gramm

Bingaman

Daschle

Hagel

Brown

DeWeese

Helms

Burns

Dodd

Hollings

Burns

Brownback

Donnelly

Hutchinson

Burns

Durbin

Inouye

Burns

Edwards

Jennings

Burns

Emt

Inouye

Campbell

Feinstein

Jeffords

11622

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

June 21, 2000
The motion was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LEAHY. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, 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. MCCONNELL. 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. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senator from Alabama, it is my understanding that the language that says our support for the Colombian Government would be conditioned upon their following defined standards of human rights, as Senator LEAHY placed in the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a further modified amendment consistent with the request of Senator LEAHY to strengthen the language that says our support for the Colombian Government would be conditioned upon their following defined standards of human rights, as Senator LEAHY placed in the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, is there a pending amendment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Helms amendment, No. 3498, is pending.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent the Helms amendment be temporarily laid aside.

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

AMENDMENTS NOS. 3519, 3519, 3528, AND 3532, EN BLOC

Mr. MCCONNELL. I call up amendment No. 3519 by Senator STEVENS.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I call up amendment No. 3528 by Senator INHOFE, and amendment No. 3532 by Senator LEAHY. These three amendments have been cleared on both sides of the aisle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendments, en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senate, from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes amendments Nos. 3519, 3528, and 3532, en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3519

On page 38, on line 12 after the word “appropriations” insert the following: "Provided further, That foreign military financing programs and military equipment to be delivered to Egypt during fiscal year 2001 shall be transferred to an interest bearing account for Egypt in the Federal Reserve Bank of New York within 30 days of enactment of this Act or by October 1, 2000, whichever is later: Provided further, That withdrawal from the account shall be made only on authenticated instructions from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service: Provided further, That in the event the interest bearing account is closed, the balance of the account shall be transferred promptly to the current appropriations account under this heading: Provided further, That none of the interest accrued by the account shall be obligated except as provided through the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.”

AMENDMENT NO. 3528

(Purpose: To express the sense of the Senate regarding United States citizens held hostage in Colombia)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. __. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON UNITED STATES CITIZENS HELD HOSTAGE IN COLOMBIA.

(a) The Senate finds that—

(1) illegal paramilitary groups in Colombia pose a serious obstacle to U.S. and Colombian counter-narcotics efforts;

(2) abduction of innocent civilians is often used by such groups to gain influence and recognition;

(3) three U.S. citizens, David Mankins, Mark Rich, and Rick Tenenoff, who were engaged in humanitarian work were abducted by one such group and have been held hostage in Colombia since January 31, 1993;

(4) these 3 men have the distinction of being the longest-held American hostages;

(5) their kidnappers are believed to be members of the FARC narco-guerrilla organization in Colombia;

(6) the families of these American citizens have not had any word about their safety or welfare for 7 years; and

(7) such acts against humanitarian workers are acts of cowardice and are against basic human dignity and are perpetrated by criminals and thus not deserving any form of recognition.

(b) The Senate—

(1) in the strongest possible terms condemns the kidnapping of these men;

(2) appeals to all freedom-loving nations to condemn these actions;

(3) urges members of the European Community to assist in the safe return of these men by including in any dialogue with FARC the objective of the release of all American hostages;

(4) appeals to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to condemn the kidnapping and to pressure the FARC into resolving this situation; and

(5) calls upon the President to raise the kidnapping of these Americans to all relevant foreign governments and to express his desire to see this tragic situation resolved.

AMENDMENT NO. 3532

At the appropriate place in the bill, insert the following new section:

SEC. __. INDOCHINESE PAROLEES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any national of Vietnam, Cambodia, or Laos who was paroled into the United States before October 1, 1997 shall be eligible to make an application for adjustment of status.
June 21, 2000

My amendment condemns the kidnap-napping; urges members of the European Community to assist in the safe return of citizens by including in any dialogue with them the objectives of the safe return of these missionaries; and appeals to the United Nations Commission to pressure FARC to resolve this situation.

I am proposing this amendment for a couple reasons: first, FARC has aggressively courted a dialogue with several in the European community. In fact, I understand that in the upcoming weeks there will be representatives of FARC in Europe looking for support of their "revolution." I fear any recognition would be viewed as legitimizing the illegal and cowardly activities of FARC and thereby compound efforts to either gain release of these Americans to learn of their fate.

Secondly, Dr. Larry Maxwell of Patterson Baptist Church in Patterson, New York has begun a 240 mile walk to Washington, D.C. to bring attention to the tragic situation of these families. Dr. Maxwell will culminate his walk at the Capitol this coming Monday, June 26th, where he will be joined by the families of the kidnapped men.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment because these American citizens can easily be forgotten and we must not do that. Dave, Mark and Rick need our prayers and their families need to know that their loved ones have not been abandoned. Finally, we need to encourage all those who have worked during the last 7 years to bring an end to this horrific ordeal to continue their effort.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendments en bloc.

The amendments (Nos. 3519, 3528, and 3529) were agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I believe the distinguished Senator from Washington is here and ready to offer an amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

AMENDMENT NO. 3517

(Purpose: To reduce the amount of funds made available for South American and Caribbean counternarcotics activities, and for other purposes)

Mr. GORTON. I have an amendment at the desk and I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON), proposes an amendment numbered 3517.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent reading of the amendment be dispensed with.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amends follow:
Beginning page 141, line 9, strike "$394,100,000" and all that follows through line 18 on page 155 and insert the following: "$200,000,000 to remain available until expended." Provided, That the funds appropriated under this heading shall be utilized in Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, and other countries in South and Central America and the Caribbean at the discretion of the President for a justification of why we were spending it in the plan for what we are going to do in the future.

That is absolutely, totally, completely backwards. This is a major undertaking, a huge change in our relations with Colombia, in what we sometimes furtively denominate a war against drugs, with some kind of hope that it will have a positive impact. My guess is I will very shortly be asked to enter into a time agreement so we can vote on this amendment no later than 6 or 6:30 p.m. today. Time constraints will lead me to accept that time agreement. But it is not equally bizarre and irresponsible that we should put the United States into another military adventure on the basis of so short and superficial a debate about both means and ends in connection with this appropriation?

The Senator from Minnesota, Mr. WELLSTONE, just proposed an amendment that got very few votes, that superficially at least it seemed at the same goal. I say "superficially" because Senator WELLSTONE did not propose to save any of the money. He simply proposed to spend about 25 percent of it with priorities that differed from those of the committee and those of the President of the United States. The war and all the equipment were still there under his amendment. We just had a quarter of a billion dollars spent on various social program purposes.

His amendment, in other words, did not go to the heart of the question that is before us. That question is, Are we prepared casually, at this point, to take the first step in what has often in the past been an inevitable series of steps toward engaging in another shooting war?

I grant you there is a limitation of no more than 250 American military personnel to accompany the equipment we will be selling to Colombia under the provisions of this bill. But that almost always the way we begin an adventure of this nature, with pious declarations that our participation is limited; we are just helping some other country solve its own problems and challenges in some military fashion? I think so.

But this is a shift from supporting a police force in a friendly country to supporting an army engaged in a civil war, a civil war that has not been winning, a civil war in which the other side is very well financed—indirectly, at least, in large part by Americans who purchase cocaine—but without the slightest real control over the use of the equipment that the Colombian Army will be receiving pursuant to this bill. It does not mean less, but it is a downpayment. But it is a downpayment we make on a home or an automobile. It is a downpayment on which we don't know the total amount of future payments; we don't know how much we will have to spend after we know exactly what the plan is and how the plan promises to lead to any kind of successful conclusion.

But the bill says, right here on pages 151 and 152, we will spend the $394 million and then the President will tell us how he is going to spend future money, and we will get a joint resolution. And a later stage future payments: we don't know the total amount of future payments; we don't know how much we will have to spend after we know exactly what the plan is and how the plan promises to lead to any kind of successful conclusion.

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In one respect, at least, I must interject with this comment: I have been overly critical. In comparison with the way the problem has been treated in the House of Representatives, this appropriation is a model of responsibility. It includes considerably fewer dollars and considerably more in the way of conditions—future conditions though they be. That means, unfortunately, the conference committee will end up spending more money than we are spending here and probably with fewer and less responsible requirements imposed on the administration in the way in which the money is spent.

But my points in this amendment are simple. We are asked to engage in another civil war. I repeat that. We are asked to engage in another civil war with a money commitment to equipment and training for the Colombian Army. Very rarely does this kind of commitment get made without escalating into something more, in money or in personnel or the like. Very rarely are impressions such as the one Colombia successfully met when those insurgencies have as large a source of monetary support as this one seems to have.

In any event, I suppose one can even say that this is a good, thoughtful, and responsible idea, but we do not know that. We have not had any kind of national debate on the subject. We have not had anything more than the most superficial justification for it by an administration whose foreign policy guesses so far during the last few years do not lend a great degree of confidence to most of us with respect to the responsibility of this adventure.

In the relatively short period of time we have asked my colleagues to ask themselves the simple question: Do you know enough about this idea to risk $1 billion on it in an open-ended commitment to an entirely new adventure in a campaign which has rather spectacularly lacked in success for the last 10 or 20 years? Wouldn't you like a little bit more advanced justification? Wouldn't you like a little bit more time to thoughtfully consider whether we want to involve ourselves in this particular civil war? Isn't there somewhere in the amendments that are set out on pages 151 and 152 of this bill but with a difference. He will have to come up and justify it before he spends the money rather than after it is over.

Next year, this request will be a very simple one: Oh, gosh, we have already spent $1 billion. We can't stop now; it is just beginning to show results; the helicopters have only been down there for 2 months; we are only asking another $1.5 billion, or whatever the request; we can't quit now; we won't show constancy; we won't show purpose. The time to show constancy and purpose is right now.

This spending program, even with the restrictions and limitations included in this bill, is not responsible. It is not the right way to spend money. It is almost impossible to conceive that it will be successful. We should deal with it today, here and now, by very simply saying: No; no, Mr. President, not until there is a far greater justification than any that you have presented so far.

We should heed in our votes as well as in our words the very words of the committee and show "grave reservations regarding the administration's ability to effectively manage the use of these resources." If we have grave reservations, we should not be spending the money until those reservations are met and we have a far greater degree of confidence than any of us can show today that this spending will be effective.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a hard time remembering the last time I disagreed with my friend from Washington on an issue, but on this one, regretfully, I do. We had a vote a few moments ago on the amendment to the Colombian drug war money by $225 million. That was defeated 89–11. Now my colleague from Washington would take it all the way down to a mere $100 million for this effort. He would be the first one to agree that, in effect, eliminates this effort. I think that is a mistake.

I will make the motion to table the Gorton amendment which I would like to schedule for 4 p.m., if that is agreeable with Senator Gorton.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I am sorry. I did not hear.

Mr. McCONNELL. I was saying to my friend from Washington, I am planning on making a motion to table at 4 p.m. and that would give us a time certain for the vote. We can lay the amendment of the Senator from Washington aside and go on to Senator Dodd who has an amendment as well.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, has the unanimous consent request been proffered?

Mr. McCONNELL. Not yet.

Mr. DODD. I am going to make a suggestion before my colleague makes it. There are at least two other people who I know want to speak on the amendment I am going to offer. I am worried about the timing. If we schedule it at 4 p.m., I presume a vote on my amendment to follow immediately thereafter—

Mr. McCONNELL. I was not going to preprop that.

Mr. GORTON. Will the Senator from Kentucky yield?

Mr. McCONNELL. I yield to the Senator from Washington.

Mr. GORTON. This Senator has made his case. He will need 5 minutes at the most to repeat it. As the Senator from Kentucky knows, however, a somewhat more drastic version of this amendment received 11 votes on the Appropriations Committee, and there may very well be other Members who do wish to speak on it.

I am perfectly happy at this point to grant unanimous consent to go on to another amendment. I would like the two Cloakrooms to be able to circulate the thought that this amendment is before the body, and if other Senators do not wish to be given an opportunity to speak, I hope he defers his motion to table until that opportunity has been presented.

Mr. McCONNELL. I will be happy to defer. As a fellow chairman of a subcommittee on Appropriations, the Senator is sympathetic. I am sure, of my goal to finish the bill. I was trying to move this along. Obviously, I will defer to my friend from Washington if he is not prepared to have that vote.

Mr. GORTON. If other people wish to speak, I want them to have that opportunity. I am perfectly happy to vote before we leave this evening.

Mr. McCONNELL. I say to my friend from Washington, is there further debate on this amendment?

Mr. DODD. Briefly. I will not take a lot of time. I know the chairman wants to move this bill along.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I will be proposing another amendment briefly. I did not speak during the consideration of the Wellstone amendment but, in effect, the amendment offered by our friend and colleague from Washington is tantamount to the same conclusion as the Wellstone amendment. This amendment must be reduced, as I understand the amendment, to some $200 million, in effect gutting the program. An amendment that says we not spend the money would have the same effect, in my view.

This is a complicated and difficult issue. I say to my friend from Washington, for whom I have the highest regard and respect, and I listened to him carefully when he speaks on any issue, I am deeply concerned. This is not a perfect package by any stretch of the imagination. If I were crafting this
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alone, it would be somewhat different than the package before us. I understand with 53 Members of Congress and a Democratic Senate, we have to put together a package that seems to make the most sense from a variety of perspectives.

I did not speak on the Wellstone amendment, but my feelings are very strong when it comes to this issue of Colombia.

Colombia is the oldest continuous democracy in Latin America. I do not engage in hyperbole when I suggest to my colleagues that this nation is a very much, from view, on the brink of being disintegrated by narcotraffickers and guerrilla forces operating in that country.

The narcotraffickers are accumulating a fortune, a vast fortune, significant parts of which are being used to finance the guerrilla operations. The major source of funding for the narcotraffickers, regrettably, comes from right here in the United States. We lose about 50,000 people a year in the United States to drug-related deaths. We are the largest market for illegal Colombian drugs.

Just in the last 2 years, Colombia’s coca production has grown by 40 percent. In 1999, the United States estimated the street value of cocaine processed from Colombia’s coca fields and sold on the streets of this country was in excess of $6 billion.

Whether we like it or not, we are engaged in the conflict in Colombia. Because of our own habits in this Nation, people are dying in the streets of America. This is not some distant conflict without any ramifications here at home.

I do not believe this issue is necessarily going to be resolved because we have a military aid package going to Colombia. It is going to be resolved through a variety of measures and means. I, frankly, have been terribly disappointed; we are now almost in July—this is a very much a year-long effort from our neighbor, from President Pastrana, from a democratic government, where 1 million people are now displaced because of the conflict in Colombia. And 100,000 people leave that country every 6 months because of the war there, many of them coming to our shores and many of them going to other nations.

Colombia is greatly distressed. Politicians, journalists, judges, and innocent civilians are being gunned down. We think we put ourselves at great risk when we run for political office if someone slams a screen door in our face. In Colombia, if you run for high office, you run the risk of being killed. That is not an exaggeration.

Literally dozens of assassins of people who have had the temerity to stand up to the narcotraffickers and to some of these paramilitary forces, and others, have lost their lives. President Pastrana, the President of the country, was actually taken hostage and kept in the trunk of a car not that many years ago as a victim of this conflict.

My point is this. This package may not be perfect, but our delay in responding to a neighbor’s call for help is getting too long. Every day we wait, every day we delay, means more lives lost, means greater strength for these narcotraffickers, who respect no one, not sovereignty, not governments, certainly not democratically elected governments, and will use whatever means means to hold and to secure their position and gain resources through their illegal trade in death, a trade in death which costs the lives of people in this country.

Obviously, we have to do a lot here at home. We cannot blame the Colombians because we have illegal drug habits in this country that exceed anywhere else in the world. But part of the answer is going after the source. So when we step up to offer the Colombian democracy a chance to fight back, we are not only doing it for them; we are doing it for ourselves.

So with all due respect to my friend from Washington, and others, this may not be a perfect plan, but every day we delay in stepping up to help our neighbor, we cause more hardship, more death and destruction in our own country, and greater is the proximity of Colombia losing its democratic government, losing sovereignty.

I hope that this amendment will be rejected, as was the previous amendment, and that we will get about the business of holding this legislation, and giving these people a chance to fight back, and also giving ourselves an opportunity to reduce the hardship in our own streets as a result of the narcotrafficking problem.

I do not claim to be any deep expert on the issue of antinarcotics efforts, but I respect those who are. From General McCaffrey to our colleagues in this Chamber, and in the other House, who work on this issue every single day, almost without exception, they say this is a must-pass program; that if we back away from our responsibility, if we back away from an ally and a friend and a neighbor in trouble, then our credibility, when it comes to fighting back on this issue, will be severely damaged, if not lost entirely, in this part of the world.

President Pastrana deserves the administration’s support and respect of the American people and this Congress. From the first days he was elected to office, he has sought to resolve the conflict in his country with a major guerrilla group in his nation that has operated for 40-some years, by sitting down with them to try to resolve their differences. And, with a substantial portion of Colombia—a small percentage of the population resides in this area of Colombia.

I have here a partial map of Colombia. It is not clearly shown on the map, but a substantial portion of Colombia is in an area called the llanos, a Spanish word for lowlands, wetlands. When you come out of the Andes in Colombia, and come down into the llanos areas, the flat areas, there is a large section of this piece of territory which President Pastrana and his government conceded—in effect, an autonomous region—as part of the effort to try to resolve this 40-year-old conflict with the major guerrilla group called the FARC. In the United States to fund their operations, and to support guerrilla activities. They cannot handle this alone. If it is left entirely up to Colombia to solve this problem, it gets worse every hour.

I know it is a lot of money, $1 billion. It is not cheap. But every day we delay, every day we refuse to step up, this problem becomes worse, and the narcotraffickers get stronger. They are already now in Ecuador. They moved into the region, where they moved the proceeds up through Ecuador to the chemistry laboratories and then back down through Ecuador and either back into Colombia or out to the United States. It is a serious issue.

Whether we like it or not, we are engaged in the conflict in Colombia. Because of our own habits in this Nation, people are dying in the streets of America. This is not some distant conflict without any ramifications here at home.
Their government has pleaded with us for some help for over a year. We are now almost finished with this session of Congress, and we still have not addressed this issue.

Again, I respect my colleague from Washington. But there was another time, a half a century ago, when neighbors in another part of the world asked for our help—not our direct involvement—in something called the Lend-Lease Program. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, in a national address to the country, described it to the American public in terms of a house being on fire and neighbors asking for some help.

In a sense, today, that is what we are being asked to do. We have here a democratic neighbor, the oldest democracy in Latin America, one of our best allies in the world, a group of people who have supported us and have been through hell over the last 20 years as judges and presidential candidates, prosecutors, state legislators. Anyone who had the guts to stand up to narcotics traffickers has gotten knocked down or their families kidnapped and put through a reign of terror by these people, and now they ask us for a little help. All of those drugs come here. They end up on our streets. They kill our kids. They want to know if we will help to put an end to it. I think this is very little to ask, considering the magnitude of the problem, how precarious it is for us here at home and for this good neighbor and friend to our south.

Regardless of party, political persuasion, or ideology, this is a time when we need to say to democratic countries in this hemisphere, we stand with you, particularly when the fight involves us very directly. I hope this amendment will be resoundingly defeated and a strong message sent that this Congress, despite its demands for attention and time and resources, is not going to turn its back on the people of Colombia. But I am saying that the United States will, in an expeditious fashion, provide the resources necessary so these people have a chance to fight back against a crowd who wants to take their sovereignty and simultaneously add to the carnage on our own streets.

For those reasons, I urge rejection of this amendment. When the tabling motion is offered, I hope my colleagues will support it. I yield the floor.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to bring my colleagues attention to the importance of what we are trying to do with emergency aid to Colombia. Why is this aid important? And why is now an emergency?

Illegal drugs pose a direct, immediate threat to the health and safety of the citizens of the United States. Today, a majority of the cocaine and heroin consumed in the United States is grown, processed, and smuggled from Colombia.

The Senate, today, has the opportunity to act. We have the opportunity to provide a needed boost to the Government of Colombia and their efforts to halt illegal drug production in their country. Colombia has a plan, and they have asked the U.S. for support. We should provide it.

That said, I don’t want to mislead anyone into thinking this is either the perfect or final assistance package that will come before the Senate for Colombia. However, it is a good start. It will strengthen the Colombian military while emphasizing the importance of human rights. It will provide additional resources for the Colombian National Police, and strengthen U.S. Colombian, and other nations in regional interdiction capabilities in and around Colombia. Personally, I would like to see more money for intelligence collection, and more emphasis on coordinating the Military, the Drug Enforcement Agency, and National Police, and more assistance to Colombia to strengthen the rule of law. However, these are all things that can be addressed in future appropriations. We also need to address economic and trade issues to help the democratic neighbor, the oldest democratic neighbor, the oldest democratic ally who had the guts to stand up to narcotics traffickers. This amendment is for the will and ability to act.

The drug problem is not going to be solved overnight. To confront this threat, we must work locally, as well as internationally. We must provide assistance so those who have been seduced by drug use can get help, but we also—and I would say this has to be our first focus—we also must keep people from becoming addicts in the first place. This means education and prevention. It means using the law to punish those who break it, providing the resources to help those who become addicted, and it also means focused programs determined by the U.S. Embassy, determined by the U.S. Department of Defense, in consultation with the Colombian military, to be the most effective aircraft to support missions by elite Colombian counter narcotics battalions in eradicating the expanding cultivation and processing of illicit drugs in remote areas of Colombia. I begin these remarks by stating what was perhaps obvious to my colleagues but may not be obvious to all who are following this debate. My colleague and I from Connecticut represent a division of the technologies known Sikorsky Aircraft which produces Blackhawk helicopters. I am not proposing an amendment that mandates that the Blackhawk helicopter be the helicopter of choice. I am sure that may disappoint some of my constituents that I am not fighting on behalf of a particular helicopter. Rather, my amendment provides for the helicopter to be selected on its relative merits.

As I said a moment ago, when it comes to narcotics issues, I don’t claim great expertise. I don’t claim to be a military expert when it comes to making decisions about which helicopters may be the best to use in a given situation. Rather than offer an amendment, which my colleague from Connecticut and I might have done, to say we re-
place. My amendment would allow our military experts to say what makes the most sense, in consultation with the people whose job it will be receiving this military equipment.

Even if Senators disagree with this package in its entirety, I hope they will support this amendment so that at least Colombia will be receiving the kinds of equipment that will be necessary to get the job done.

The questions raised by our colleague from the State of Washington about whether or not this policy can work are not illegitimate. None of us have a crystal ball to determine whether or not this particular program is going to produce the desired results of those of us who support it. One way we can almost guarantee it won’t is to insist that the Colombian Government accept only the Blackhawk which we want to give them, not which may be the best in order to deal with the problem but that which we think they ought to have because of some parochial interest.

I don’t want to be in a position of demanding that the Colombian Government take a helicopter made in my State. Nor should anyone else be demanding they take one from theirs. Let us let the experts decide on what works best. That is the reason I am offering this amendment with a number of my other colleagues.

The administration’s primary rationale in proposing the $1.2 billion supplemental aid package in support of what is called Plan Colombia was to assist the Colombian Government in stemming the massive growth in coca cultivation in southern Colombia. Again, it is the area I described in the shaded green around the Caqueta and Putumayo region. It is not limited to those areas but in other areas as well where the products are grown. Those are the principal ones.

In the last 2 years, Colombia’s coca production has grown by 40 percent. In 1999, the estimated street value in the United States was in excess of $6 billion coming out of this region, just in a year alone. We are talking about a billion-dollar program to deal with a supply in coca alone, in 1 year, 2 years, in excess of $6 billion.

The Clinton administration has proposed to address the explosion in coca production by going to the source, the coca-producing regions of Putumayo and Caqueta in southern Colombia. However, these coca growing areas are also strongholds of the FARC guerilla organizations—frankly, there is a relationship between the drug cultivators and the guerrillas in these two areas. There are also right-wing paramilitary organizations which operate in these areas, but the paramilitary groups are more extensive in the northern part of the country.

To address these threat levels and logistical difficulties in mounting substantial counter narcotics programs, President Pastrana has made a central feature of his plan the so-called push deployment of the first battalion having already occurred in December of last year, and to provide tactical mobility, which is airlift capacity, to these newly trained battalions so that the Colombian national police will have sufficient area security to carry out eradication and other drug law enforcement operations in southern Colombia.

The Clinton administration specifically requested almost $800 million to support that component of Plan Colombia, and the helicopter in the House-passed emergency supplemental bill. The success or failure of push into southern Colombia depends on no small measure not only on the effectiveness of these battalions but also on the effectiveness and capability of the equipment with which we provide them. It is going to be critically important that we not jam down the throats of this government equipment that is not going to meet the test, not going to help get the job done. That is why I offer this amendment today.

President Pastrana and U.S. defense experts spent a number of months discussing how best to ensure the maximum effectiveness of these operations. Contrary to the assertion of my colleague from Washington, a lot of time has been spent discussing this issue. There has not been a lack of discussion about what is going on in Colombia. There has been a lot of discussion, a lot of debate. Unilateral action is not the answer.

Our Pentagon and other experts have determined that the ability to transport substantial numbers of elite Army troops together with members of the national police quickly and safely to remote areas of Colombia would be absolutely critical to the overall success of the larger strategy. After reviewing a number of different options, including the possibility of non-U.S. aircraft, the Colombian Army selected the Blackhawk helicopter as their equipment of choice in dealing with this issue. According to Gen. Charles Wilhelm, Commander in Chief of the Southern Command, our top military person in the region, the ultimate decision to select the Blackhawk over other options was based on its superiority in the following areas: range, payload, survivability, versatility, service ceiling, and other technical considerations.

Let me share a chart with you that makes the point more clearly than anything I could have just said, in very specific terms. I have here a chart that shows a comparison between the Huey II, presently demanded in this bill, and the Blackhawk. Let me go down each of the critical areas identified by our military people in the Southern Command.

What is the maximum cruise speed of the Huey II? It is 100 knots. The Blackhawk is 155 knots. The maximum number of passengers at sea level is 11 persons for the Huey and 24 for the Blackhawk. The maximum passengers at 9,000 feet is 8 persons the Huey and 18 persons for the Blackhawk.

On this other chart, when you are based here in northern Colombia and you have to get to southern Colombia, you have to fly over the Andes. This is not at ground level or sea level. For those people who may be familiar with the geography of this area, to suggest somehow you are going to have an effective quick-response team, taking 8 persons in a Huey helicopter over the Andes, as opposed to a Blackhawk, which can carry 18 at 9,000 feet, is to put this program in serious jeopardy.

The maximum flight time is 1.5 hours for the Huey; its 2.5 for the Blackhawk. The range of a Huey is 196 nautical miles; it is 300 nautical miles for the Blackhawk. The ceiling—how high they can go—is 16,000 feet for a Huey and 20,000 feet for a Blackhawk. The weight the Huey can carry is 10,500 pounds; the Blackhawk can carry 22,000 pounds. Fuel consumption for a Huey is 600 pounds an hour; for the Blackhawk, it is 700 pounds an hour. The sling load is 5,000 pounds for the Huey and 9,000 pounds—almost double—for the Blackhawk. The payload at 4,000 feet again is more than double for the Blackhawk as opposed to a Huey.

Mr. President, in virtually every category that our top military people have said is important, the Blackhawk outperforms the Huey. I am not offering an amendment that demands that we write in Blackhawk instead of Huey. My amendment says let our military people decide which is best. If you are going to vote for this program, then you ought to let the military people decide what is going to give it the greatest chance of success, and not have a bunch of Congressmen and Senators tell you what is going to have the greatest chance of success. We should give significant weight to what our military experts tell you what is going to have the greatest chance of success in this bill. In virtually every operational category—speed, maximum passengers, flight time, ceiling, weight-carrying capacity—the Blackhawk outperforms the Huey. That is not at all surprising,
since the Huey is a Vietnam war vintage aircraft, which first went into production in 1959—40 years ago. The production of Hueys ended in 1976. That also means that the significant cost advantages that the proponents of the Huey II have pointed to as a justification for the substitution is significantly reduced. It is even further reduced because U.S. military experts who are familiar with the conditions in Colombia in which the aircraft will be operating have stated it will actually take two-plus Hueys to accomplish what one Blackhawk could do. If that is the case, then the cost advantage argument for the substitution is even weaker. The pension cost for a typical mission of transporting 88 troops from a base, at a distance of 98 miles or less, would cost essentially the same.

The committee has asserted in its committee report that one of the rationales for substituting Hueys for Blackhawks was the more immediate availability of Huey IIIs. I think that is disingenuous, in light of the fact that the 60 Hueys would require major refurbishing. There is currently a limited-phasing out current inventories of the 800 Huey aircraft and replacing them entirely with the newer model aircraft, including Blackhawks. Hueys are no longer used in combat missions by any of the U.S. military forces.

The Appropriations Committee has indirectly acknowledged the differences in capability of the two aircraft by recommending a 2-for-1 substitution of Hueys for Blackhawks—60 Huey IIIs, instead of 30 Blackhawks. That also means that the relative ranges of the two helicopters. Frankly, the strongest argument the proponents have used for a substitution is that it will take to "train up" either Blackhawk or Huey pilots, I don't see it as particularly decisive.

Given the pilot shortages and the time it will take to "train up" either Blackhawk or Huey pilots, I don't see this aspect as particularly decisive. Again, whether or not you agree with this policy overall, I hope you will support this amendment. In fact, if you will oppose the policy because you don't want to see any of the $1 billion in emergency funds for Colombia. That means we will have to cut into other accounts to keep these helicopters flying in future years. Which accounts do we cut?
Refugees, UNICEF, funds for Armenia, and Russia, demining, or health? What accounts will pay the price to fly Blackhawk in the future years when Hueys would do?

These are U.S. units, which do not have Blackhawks, which will have to wait while the production line produces Colombia’s inventory. Given the short- and long-term costs, and given the impact on the availability for U.S. troops, the committee decided to provide twice the number of refurbished Hueys which will meet all the troop transport requirements in Colombia.

Those are the arguments for the approach the committee has chosen.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I am impressed with Senator Dodd’s logic and wisdom in drafting legislation which does not direct that, rather, makes the purchase subject to the decisions of the DOD, which will ultimately be responsible for the training and military support for the Colombian Army.

I am here today principally because I was fortunate last week to be in Colombia and in the field with a narcotics battalion, to get the opinions of those Colombian soldiers who actually have to fight these missions, and to get the observations of the American special forces who are training the Colombians. I think their observations will be very useful and informative to my colleagues. I believe I have an obligation to speak to those observations.

These are both excellent systems. But the question of what system do you purchase and deploy is a function of the mission that the platform, the helicopter, the system must execute.

Senator Dodd did a very good job of providing the context for the proposed operation. Let me add a bit of detail, if I may.

The use of Plan Colombia from a military standpoint is to create a counternarcotics battalion which will push into the South from the provinces of Putumayo and Caqueta. This is part of the Amazon jungle. It is all jungle. The last road ends at Tres Esquinas. All military supplies for the core operation of that base must be done by air. The context of the operation that is proposed is that they operate from Tres Esquinas, which is about 150 nautical miles from the operating base. That is their zone of operation.

The mission these counternarcotics troops is to airlift out or Tres Esquinas, to move into landing zones that are close to either final laboratories or other significant assets of the narcoterrorists, and to deliver, at a minimum, two platoons. Those 2 platoons have about 70 personnel. The ultimate lift is a full company of about 360 personnel.

It has been pointed out before that the range of the Huey II, Super Huey, is about 196 nautical miles carrying 11 troops, and the Huey II can range only half the target area, half of the 150 nautical miles, without expensive refueling operations.

So the first tactical decision a commander would have to make if in fact he were deploying Super Hueys would be to operate in the full range of the area of operations. You would have to go ahead and establish, at least temporarily, four refueling points so the Hueys could come in and refuel. This is in some respects a tactical hindrance to the operation.

First of all, you have to defend these positions in the field—in a jungle area that is literally infested with guerrillas.

Second, the element of surprise would be at least somewhat vitiated if in fact the Hueys come in, refuel, and then lift off, and go again to a target area.

In contrast to the range of the Huey II and the necessary-for-refueling bases to cover the whole area, the Blackhawk has a range of about 300 nautical miles and can carry 18 troops. This disparity between range and capacity of troop lift also goes to the issue of cost because obviously, in order to conduct these tactical operations, you will need more of the Super Hueys than you would Blackhawk helicopters. That doesn’t completely equate the force, but it is in a significant way narrows operational forces.

The military personnel on the ground, the Colombian National Army, and the special forces advisers suggest that to put two platoons into an LZ someplace in this area of operations would require seven Hueys as compared to four Blackhaws. Again, tactically, four Blackhawk aircraft flying at high speeds and moving in without the necessity to refuel gives them more operational capabilities, and it gives them more capability to amass their forces, strike quickly, and pull back quickly.

There is something else that has to be mentioned. They are flying against military forces that potentially have fairly sophisticated defense systems, which again puts a premium on speed and surprise—being able to get in and out of the area of operations of the helicopters. That is again an issue that requires capital military judgments about what system is most capable to operate and survive in this type of environment.

There is another aspect to this. The lift capacity of the Blackhawk, according to the people to whom I spoke, gives it an advantage when they operate closely in the highlands of the Andes where you need lift simply because of the altitude. It also gives the Blackhawks some respect.

Also, this was suggested to me while I was in the field. If you are going to do fast-rope rappelling operations, you have to come in, hover over the objective, and get your troops out. Many places in this area of operation will not be suitable for the Blackhawk helicopters to require rappelling operations to get your troops on the ground and get them out again.

Another aspect that was alluded to by Senator Dodd is the aspect of the ability of the Colombian forces to absorb a number of helicopters. Right now, the State Department has managed to procure for the use of the Colombians, at least temporarily, 18 Huey helicopters from Canada. These are “11- November” models. Already, that has increased the aviation capacity potentially of the Colombians by substantial amounts. They are out finding pilots; they are finding logistical support.

If we give them 30 Blackhaws, that will stress their logistical ability to train pilots, to provide mechanics, to provide crews, to provide the kind of logistic base they need. If we double that by providing twice as many Hueys, we will put additional pressure on the logistical base of the Colombian military forces to do the job. That is something, practically, that we have to consider with respect to this issue.

What Senator Dodd has suggested is very thoughtful and appropriate, to make this military decision subject to military judgment and not our particular judgment.

I was compelled to speak today because I had the chance, gratuitously, to be at Tres Esquinas and Larandia on Sunday to talk to the Colombian soldiers who will fly the missions and jump into this difficult area. I talked to our special forces troops and our military forces who are advising. They provided information, and it is important my colleagues understand this information. It is important they be considering this amendment, not to direct that the aircraft be one variety or the other but to ensure that the Department of Defense make a very careful review based upon some of the issues we have all talked about, including range, lift capability, the nature of the operations, the nature of the Colombian military forces, and their capacity to integrate these platforms quickly into their operations.

I hope their logistical ability accomplishes those missions. I yield the floor.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I urge the Senate to support the committee’s position on this issue.

Mr. DODD. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. STEVENS. Yes, but I have to leave quickly.

Mr. DODD. I would like to attend the ceremony, as well. Perhaps the leadership could provide a window for those who want to attend that ceremony.

Mr. STEVENS. It is above my pay grade. I will speak for 2 minutes and express my position. If the vote occurs while I am gone, people will see an old bull scratch the ground very hard.
As a practical matter, this position that we have taken is the best one for Colombia. We looked at this very seriously. This is not an issue that we have to be embarrassed about now. Does anyone think year after year after year after year we will be able to declare an emergency on this account? We provided the Hueys. They can have two or more times the number of Hueys for the cost of what the administration wants to do with Blackhawks. The Blackhawks are fighting machines. They will be the tip of a sword going into another Vietnam, if we are not careful. What they need are the Hueys. They need to transport these people. They need to be able to fight against the drug people. They do not need to get these so they can fight against the insurgents.

I urge the Senate to realize what we are doing. We are doing our utmost to increase the tremendous pressure upon the drug operations in Colombia. We want to do that in a way that Colombia can sustain the cost without coming back to this Congress year after year after year to ask for money to main- tain what we provided.

Others have spoken about the costs. The Huey is a good machine. We are upgrading the Huey and providing our own troops for them. There is no reason for anyone to be ashamed of flying a Huey in combat. But it is not the type of situation that calls for Blackhawks to be a part of our operation against the drug lords. What we need to do is provide the assistance they need and to give them the ability, if they want to continue this, to operate these machines.

I cannot see why we should start this precedent. I assume Senator McConnell made the same comments. We have options all over the world. We are going to be faced in the next decade with trying to suppress the supply of drugs coming literally from all over the globe. This is no time to take the frontline item that we have for war-fighting machines and provide it as assistance to people trying to suppress drug producers.

I wish I had more time to deal with this because I believe very strongly that if we go to the Blackhawks—with the cost of operation per hour, the high maintenance cost, the high cost of continued operation—we will start a trendline that this budget cannot sustain into the future. We have to think about this not only in terms of what we will do now but what it will do in terms of our future costs to continue this assistance. It is not a 1-year operation. We will not be able to stop this drug operation in Colombia in 1 year.

We have done our best. In fact, we have not done it yet. If this account gets seriously questioned even surviving the Senate. We have been warned about that in terms of the level of support. I believe Senator McConnell and his committee have brought to us a bill that meets the needs, gives them the assistance, and gives them the support to carry out their operations against the drug lords without getting the U.S. in the position of building up a military force in Colombia to deal with the other problems they face internally.

I hope the Senate agrees with our position.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Inhofe). The Senator from Connecticut?

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I will join my good friend from Alaska shortly, but this amendment I have offered says to let the people we are going to get into the situation decide. Some people think we ought not be involved with this. I respect their position, but I disagree. If we are going to get involved with narcotraffickers who are as well heeled and financed as any military group in the world, if we are going to do the job right and properly, we ought to let the military decide what they need. My amendment says to let the military people decide what works best.

Let me read what 24 of our aviation experts sent to Colombia specifically for the purpose of trying to determine what equipment would work best had to say on the impact of substituting 60 Hueys for 30 Blackhawks, as originally proposed:

The superior troop-carrying capacity and range of the Blackhawk versus the Huey, coupled with the combat nature of the operations, the requirement to operate at high altitude areas and the increased survivability of both aircrew and troops, clearly indicate that the Blackhawk is the helicopter that should be fielded to Colombia in supporting the counterdrug effort.

Additionally, the number of acquired pilots, crew chiefs, gunners, and mechanics to maintain the 60 Hueys is twice that of the Blackhawk.

Infrastructure requirements, maintenance, building, parking, and refueling areas, as well as other associated building requirements, are essentially double to support the 60 Hueys as opposed to the 30 Blackhaws.

If this issue were to be decided strictly on dollars and cents—put aside the issue of whether or not one piece of equipment is better than the next—the 18 Hueys that are there, plus the 60 they talk about sending, those numbers exceed what it would cost in order to have the equipment that the military says they need to do the job. These are the numbers from the military.

I am not suggesting you blindly follow the military in every case. But my amendment says at least let them make a recommendation as to what they think is right. It does not say you buy whatever the Blackhawk. It says make the proper, intelligent decision.

We heard from my colleague from Rhode Island, a graduate of West Point Academy, who served with distinction in the U.S. military for a career. He knows just as well as I do, along with others, going down in an assessment that makes the best sense. He comes back with the same conclusion: We ought to let the military people decide.

I have been to Colombia many times. I think that there is no area where the flatlands are, where most of this problem exists. If I can get that chart here which shows the map of Colombia? Let me make the point again.

When you get down to the area where most of the narcotraffickers operate, that is jungle. That is down along that Ecuadorian border, the Putumayo River. There are no roads here at all. The roads end up here in the highlands. The idea that you are going to have the capacity to handle 90 helicopters—they do not have the personnel in Colombia to do that. If you want to condemn this program to failure, then demand this language be in this amendment. It may be we are offering at least offers this program a much higher chance of success down the road by allowing 60 Blackhaws, which every military expert who has looked at this says is what you ought to have to deal with the problem. Because of its lift capacity, personnel capacity to be able to move into this area, and the speed to move in and out.

Again, it seems to me, if you look at the charts, on all the comparisons here, using 1976 equipment—the last year the Huey was made—as opposed to a modern piece of equipment is wrong. Unless you think this is not an issue worth fighting over, if you think you want to have these narcotraffickers control this country and take over this place and ship on an hourly basis to this country the drugs that are killing 50,000 people a year, we ought not support it at all. But if you are going to do it and it is going to happen, then do it right. Do it with the kind of equipment that will guarantee at least a higher possibility of success, or we will end up doing it ourselves down the road, which I don’t welcome at all.

We now have Colombians who can fly these helicopters or can be trained to do so. Let them do the job. If we send in inferior equipment that can’t get the job done, the problem gets worse, the situation gets worse, and then we will be regretting the day we made a political decision about the Hueys rather than a military decision about what works best.

I urge colleagues, regardless of their positions on whether this is a program they want to support, to support this amendment which says this decision ought to be left to the people who make the calculated determinations of what works best. That is all this amendment does. It does not demand a Blackhawk. It just says make the decision about what makes the best sense. I will live with whatever decision that is. But I don’t want to have a
political decision, I don’t want to be told I have to accept 60 or 90 Hueys, when I send to Colombia you don’t have the personnel to support it. It will take too long, you will never get it done, and you don’t have the capacity to get the job accomplished.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment when it comes to a vote. I think my colleague from Connecticut wants to be heard on this issue.

I don’t know how the chairman of the committee wants to handle this. I would like to be excused for about an hour to attend a very important medal ceremony for one of our colleagues.

Mr. MCCONNELL. We are not ready to schedule a vote yet, I am told.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, there are United States units that don’t have Blackhawks yet, that will have to wait while Blackhawks are produced in Kentucky, and therefore concerned about, as chairman of this subcommittee, is two things: No. 1, the fact that even U.S. units don’t have Blackhawks yet and will have to wait, as I just said, while these are sent to Colombia. And, No. 2, the cost of operation.

We are not going to have $1 billion to spend on Colombia every year. This is a unique year in which we are debating whether to spend $1 billion on the drug war in Colombia—an unusual year. But the cost of operating these Blackhawks, if we go in that direction, is going to come back every year and that is $1,000 an hour more than operating the Huey—$1,000 an hour more than operating the Huey—in Colombia, which could get by on Hueys. My good friend from Connecticut has made a good case for a home State product, the Blackhawk helicopter. The Blackhawk is not made in Kentucky. The Huey is not made in Kentucky, as far as I know, and concerned about.

As the distinguished chairman of the Appropriations Committee just pointed out, and also the chairman of the Defense Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, the Huey will get the job done for a lower cost to the United States. The foreign operations account is going to have to pay for these operational costs, as I just pointed out, not just this year but the year after that and the year after that and the year after that. That means we will have to cut into other accounts to keep these helicopters flying.

That is the reason the subcommittee decided to go with the Huey because we think the Huey will get the job done at less cost next year, and in years down the road, which is not to say I am sure the Colombians would not like to have Blackhawks; I am sure they would. All of our U.S. units that need them would like to have them, too, and they don’t have them yet. So that is in the recommendation of the subcommittee.

I hope when we subsequently vote on the Dodd amendment it will be defeated. Mr. President, with that, I suggest the absence of the quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order be changed.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the votes occur in relation to the pending Dodd amendment and the Gorton amendment beginning at 6:10 p.m., with the first vote in relation to the Gorton amendment, to be followed by a vote in relation to the Dodd amendment, with the time between now and 6:10 p.m. to be equally divided for debate on both amendments, and no second-degree amendments be in order prior to the votes just described, with 2 minutes between the votes for explanation.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask the distinguished Senator from Kentucky, does he have a feeling whether there will be votes after those votes?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I am told the majority leader wants to continue and try to wrap the bill up tonight.

Mr. LEAHY. I am for that. There may be some difficulty with some of the amendments coming down. I urge Senators who have amendments, even if we have to put a couple aside, that they come down and start debating their amendments.

I think I can speak for both the distinguished chairman and myself on the pending amendment. There will be no difficulty in having it set aside for the moment if somebody wants to start debate on another amendment, especially if it is going to require a roll call vote and I can see a situation where it can easily be sequenced following these other two amendments.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I say to my friend from Vermont, as we speak, staff on both sides are going over the amendments that were filed prior to the deadline of 3 p.m. Hopefully, we will be able to process some of those by agreement during this period between now and 6:10 p.m. I agree with the Senator from Vermont, we want to make progress. If anybody wants to come down and offer an amendment that might be contentious and debate it, we will certainly be glad to see them.

Mr. LEAHY. The point is, we will jointly move to anything aside so they can debate an amendment, if they wish. I urge that. It will save us from having debate quite late this evening. In the meantime, we will try to clear some amendments. Even in that regard, if there are Senators who have amendments they wish cleared, we can try to do that.

I see the distinguished Senator from Virginia on the floor, one of my Senators when I am away from home. I yield the floor.

Mr. WALTERS. I thank my distinguished colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I very much want to make a statement in connection with the amendments. On the subject of the Colombia operation. Our committee had a hearing on the subject. We looked into it very carefully. At the appropriate time, I want to be recognized by the Chair. I need a few more minutes to collect my documents, but I judge from the managers, I would not be disruptive to what they are engaged in were I to seek the floor in the near future.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I say to my friend from Virginia, there is no time like the present or the near present. So, no one else on the floor at the moment, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMENDMENTS NOS. 3529, 3536, 3540, 3544, AND 3568, EN BLOC

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we have some more amendments that have been cleared on both sides. Therefore, en bloc, I call up amendments Nos. 3529, 3536, 3540, 3544, and 3568, en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we have some more amendments that have been cleared on both sides. Therefore, en bloc, I call up amendments Nos. 3529, 3536, 3540, 3544, and 3568. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendments will be considered en bloc.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3529

(Purpose: To allocate development assistance funds for Habitat for Humanity International)

On page 12, line 14, before the period insert the following: “... Provided further, That of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available under this heading, $1,500,000 shall be available only for Habitat for Humanity International, to be used to purchase 14 acres of land on behalf of Tibetan refugees living in northern India and for the construction of a multiunit development for Tibetan families.”

AMENDMENT NO. 3536

(Purpose: Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining, and Related Programs (NADR) budget)

On page 140, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following section:

SEC. 3. NONPROLIFERATION AND ANTI-TERRORISM PROGRAMS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the programs contained in the Department of State’s Nonproliferation, Antiterrorism, Demining, and Related Programs (NADR) budget line are vital to the national security of the United States; and

(2) funding for those programs should be restored in any conference report with respect to this Act to the levels requested in the President’s budget.
(Purpose: Express the sense of the Senate on the importance of combating mother- to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa)

At the appropriate place, add the following:

SEC. 1. FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) According to the World Health Organization, there were 3.8 million new cases of HIV/AIDS throughout the world, and two-thirds of those (2.4 million) were in sub-Saharan Africa.

(2) Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region in the world where a majority of those with HIV/AIDS—55 percent—are women.

(3) When women get the disease, they often pass it along to their children, and over 2 million children in sub-Saharan Africa are living with HIV/AIDS.

(4) New investments and treatments hold out promise of making progress against mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS. For example:

(A) a study in Uganda demonstrated that a new drug could prevent almost one-half of the HIV transmissions from mothers to infants, at a fraction of the cost of other treatments needed.

(B) a study of South Africa's population estimated that if all pregnant women in that country took an antiviral medication during labor, as many as 110,000 new cases of HIV/AIDS could be prevented over the next five years in South Africa alone.

(C) The Technical Assistance, Trade Promotion, and Anti-Corruption Act of 2000, as approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on March 23, 2000, ensures that not less than 8.3 percent of USAID's HIV/AIDS funding is used to combat mother-to-child transmission.

(D) The Senate of the United States should place a high priority on efforts, including providing medications, to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS.

AMENDMENT NO. 3568

(Purpose: To allocate funds to combat trafficking in persons)

On page 20, line 18, before the period insert the following: 

A report on the delivery of humanitarian or other assistance through or from OLS to those areas covered or served by OLS, including but not limited to the Nuba Mountains, Red Sea Hills, and Blue Nile regions.

AMENDMENT NO. 3541

(Purpose: To require a report on the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Sudan, and for other purposes)

At the appropriate place in the bill, insert the following:

SEC. 1. REPORTING REQUIREMENT ON SUDAN.

One hundred and twenty days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees—

(a) describing—(i) the areas of Sudan open to the delivery of humanitarian or other assistance through or from Operation Lifeline Sudan (in this section referred to as “OLS”), both in the Northern and Southern sectors;

(b) the extent of actual deliveries of assistance through or from OLS to those areas from which such assistance cannot be delivered; and

(c) the specific reasons for lack of access or absence of coverage.

The report shall set forth:

(i) denial of access by the government of Sudan on a periodic basis (“flight bans”), including specific times and duration of denials from January 1997 through the present;

(ii) denial of access by the government of Sudan on an historic basis (“no-go” areas) since 1989 and the reason for such denial;

(iii) exclusion of areas from the original agreements which defined the limitations of OLS;

(iv) a determination by OLS of a lack of need in an area of Sudan; and

(v) no request has been made to the government of Sudan for coverage or deliveries to those areas by OLS or any participating organization within OLS;

(vi) any request for exclusion from or denial of coverage by OLS;

(vii) areas of Sudan where the United States has provided assistance outside of OLS since January 1997, and the amount, extent and nature of that assistance;

(E) areas affected by the withdrawal of humanitarian assistance from or partial suspension of assistance from their sponsors, or both, due to the disagreement over terms of the “Agreement for Coordination of Humanitarian, Relief and Rehabilitation Activities in the SLM Administered Areas” memorandum of 1999, including specific locations and programs affected; and

(F) a comprehensive assessment of the humanitarian needs in areas of Sudan not covered or served by OLS, including but not limited to the Nuba Mountains, Red Sea Hills, and Blue Nile regions.

AMENDMENT NO. 3568

(Purpose: To allocate funds to combat trafficking in persons)

On page 20, line 18, before the period insert the following: 

The extent to which Peru benefits from

(1) The effectiveness of providing United States assistance to Peru only through independent non-governmental organizations or international organizations;

(2) The need to increase support to Peru through independent non-governmental organizations and international organizations to promote the rule of law, separation of powers, political pluralism, and respect to human rights, and to evaluate termination of support for entities that have cooperated with the undemocratic maneuvers of the executive branch; and

(3) The extent to which Peru benefits from the Andean Trade Preferences Act and the ramifications of conditioning participation in that program on respect for the rule of law and representative and democratically elected governments.

The President shall determine and report to the appropriate committees of Congress whether the Government of Peru has made substantial progress in improving its respect
Mr. President, I have been associated with this very important piece of legislation providing aid to Colombia since it was first recommended to the Congress of the United States.

I commend the administration and, in particular, General McCaffrey. I have had an opportunity, as chairman of the Committee on Armed Services and, indeed, for some 22 years to work with General McCaffrey, particularly during the period of the Gulf War in 1991 when he showed extraordinary leadership as a troop commander in that decisive battle to turn back Saddam Hussein’s threats.

Now he has volunteered, once again, as an American patriot, to take on this somewhat thankless task of dealing with the almost insoluble problems of the importing into this country of drugs. This is one effort by the general—indeed, the administration, and others—to try to curtail this illegal importation of drugs.

I heard a colleague earlier today concerned about: Well, we are not spending enough money here, the drug problem. Quite quick research and consultation with other colleagues indicates that I think some $500 million in taxpayers’ money has been added by this Congress to the Administration’s budget requests for this purpose, represents an increased U.S. effort and consequence.

So I rise to speak in support of the U.S. counternarcotics activities in the Andean ridge and neighboring countries, as provided for in this bill, and to address the impact of drug trafficking on the stability of the region.

The importance of this region to the United States cannot be overstated. I will give you one example. The region provides the United States with almost 20 percent of the supply of foreign oil. The number is likely to increase with the recent discovery, in Colombia’s eastern plains of reserves that are estimated at two billion barrels. The ongoing controversy over the price of gasoline that the American motorist is paying only serves to reinforce the importance of this commodity in our everyday life and economy.

In sharp and tragic contrast is the threat from this same region posed by illegal drugs to American citizens on the streets of our cities and in the playgrounds of our schools. An estimated 80 percent of the cocaine and 90 percent of the heroin smuggled out of Colombia is destined for the United States. Sadly these drugs have caused, and, indeed, for some 22 years to work with this very important piece of legislation, as provided for in this bill, and the importation of drugs.

Additionally, this region is home to the Panama Canal, a waterway of significant importance to America. With the United States no longer maintaining a permanent military presence in Panama, it is crucial that we be vigilant against any threat as a consequence of drug trafficking in Colombia could prove enormously destabilizing to the surrounding nations.

This legislation is the right thing. I commend all those, certainly here in Congress, who have had an opportunity, as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations in the House of Representatives. For the purposes of this section, “humanitarian assistance” includes but is not limited to assistance to support health and basic education.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCon nell] for Mr. Abramson, proposes an amendment numbered 3584, as modified.

The amendment, as further modified, is as follows:

On page 14, line 4, strike “$15,000,000” and insert “$8,000,000, of which $3,000,000 shall be made available to Economic Support Fund assistance for human rights”.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, these amendments that have been modified have been approved by both sides. I ask unanimous consent that the amendments be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The amendments are agreed to.

The amendments (Nos. 3521 and 3584), as modified, were agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. I move to reconsider the vote and move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The amendment to the amendment is in order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank the managers for their efforts on this very important piece of legislation. They will have my support.
The proposed aid package, much of which will be provided to Colombia in order to fund portions of the $7.5 billion Plan Colombia, represents one of the most aggressive foreign policy actions of the United States in Latin America in recent history. However, the funding contained in this package is only a small part of our overall commitment to this problem. We already spend hundreds of millions of dollars and deploy hundreds of military personnel to the region every year. In addition to the proposed increase in funding, our support for Plan Colombia will require us to deploy many more military personnel in order to train Colombian law enforcement and military personnel. This is a matter of grave concern for the Senate Armed Services Committee, which has as its primary focus the safety and well-being of the men and women who proudly serve in the Armed Forces.

The decision by the Congress to support Plan Colombia and an increased American involvement in the region was not to be an easy one to make. Some have compared the situation in Colombia to Vietnam, and warn against such a U.S. military involvement in an internal matter. Others believe that such involvement is in our vital interest and warn of the consequences if we refuse to engage.

On April 4th of this year, the Senate Armed Services Committee held a hearing on this issue in order to explore the problem and determine what, if any, assistance was appropriate. Our witnesses at that hearing included Brian Sheridan, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict; Rand Beers, Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs; Mr. General Charles Wilhelm, Command-in-Chief, United States Southern Command; and Mr. Peter Romero, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs.

Mr. President, at that hearing I asked our witnesses five questions I believe to be essential in making a decision regarding what role the United States should play in this effort:

1. Is it in our vital national security interest to become involved?
2. Will the American people support this involvement?
3. Can we make a difference if we become involved?
4. Will American involvement create a reaction amongst the people of the region that is counter to our interest?
5. Are those we propose to help committed to achieving the same goals we support?

These are not easy questions but the testimony of the witnesses left me to conclude that it is in our interest, that we can make a difference, and that we will have the support of the people of the United States and the people of the region if we take appropriate and effective action to help the democratically elected governments of this region regain control of their sovereign territory.

Mr. President, this bill represents that appropriate action and I believe that our Armed Forces will ensure that it is effective. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WARNER. 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. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the time in the quorum call be divided equally to both sides.

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

Mr. WARNER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DEWINE. 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. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my time come off of the time of the Senator from Kentucky.

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

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my time come off of the time of the Senator from Kentucky.

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

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, we will be voting in just a few moments in relation to the Gorton amendment. I rise to talk about the bill but also to oppose, with due respect, the Gorton amendment.

What is at the heart of this debate on the emergency aid package to Colombia, the very essence of why we need to help restore stability in Colombia and help combat the violent insurgents, is the urgent need to keep drugs off our streets in the United States and out of the hands of our children. That is what this debate is all about; that is what this vote on the amendment is all about.

As my colleagues know, this emergency package would provide $394 million to support Colombian efforts to eradicate the narcotics industry, improve human rights programs, improve rule of law programs, and increase economic development. The fact is, there is an emergency in our neighbor to the south, in the country of Colombia. This democracy is embroiled in a destabilizing and brutal civil war, a civil war that has gone on for decades with a death toll reaching at least 35,000.

Today, we have heard a lot of speeches about human rights abuses in Colombia and what has taken place in the past. It is important for us to remember that behind all of these speeches there is the fact that the current aid package that the Senator from Kentucky has put together is based on legislation Senator Coverdell, Grassley, Graham, and I introduced last fall, which was developed with the protection of human rights in mind. It is an integral part of this bill. Our colleagues have a right to be concerned with past human rights abuses. The way to deal with this is through the conditions that are written all through this bill.

My office met with numerous human rights organizations. We worked closely with Senator Leahy's office, and many others, to ensure that safeguards were put in place to prevent U.S. assistance from being used by those in Colombia who do not respect human rights.

Many of those original provisions have been incorporated into the package before us, such as funds to monitor the use of U.S. assistance by the Colombian armed forces and Colombian national police; funds to support efforts to investigate and prosecute members of both the armed forces and the paramilitary organizations involved in human rights abuses. It also contains funds to address the social and economic needs of the displaced population in Colombia.

Our provisions were not only developed to punish human rights abuses in Colombia but, more importantly, they were developed to prevent those abuses.

The fact is that this Congress places such a strong emphasis on the protection of human rights that the legislation before us today would provide more funding for human rights—$25 million to be exact—than was in the President's requested budget. It is more than the President requested.

This Congress is committed to the protection of human rights and will continue to monitor the assistance we provide to ensure that every penny is used for its intended purpose, which is the respect for and protection of human rights.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and those watching in their offices, have spent a lot of time and energy to expel communism and bring democracy to this hemisphere and to bring a rule of law and human rights protection to this hemisphere. The 1980s were a true success story for the ideals we believe in and for our attempt to spread those ideals and beliefs in democracy throughout this great hemisphere. The people of this hemisphere paid a very heavy price, but the cause was worth paying to achieve the spread of democracy throughout the hemisphere. We brought democracy and we brought opportunity to our neighbors.
Today, the drug trade—not communism—is now the dominant threat to peace and freedom in the Americas. It threatens the prosperity of the Colombian democracy and the continued prosperity and security of our entire hemisphere. Tragically, our own drug habit—America’s drug habit—is what is fuelling this threat in our hemisphere. It is our own country’s drug use that is causing the instability and violence in Colombia and in the Andean region.

The sad fact is that the cultivation of coca in Colombia has doubled, from over 126,000 acres in 1995 to 300,000 in 1999. Poppy cultivation also has grown to such an extent that it is now the source of the majority of heroin consumed in the United States. Not surprisingly, as drug availability has increased in the United States, drug use among adolescents has also increased. To make matters worse, the Colombian insurgents see the drug traffickers as a financial partner who will sustain their illicit cause, which only makes the FARC and ELN—these guerrillas—grow stronger and stronger day by day. So the sale of drugs in the United States today not only promotes the drug business, but it also fuels the antidemocratic insurgents in Colombia.

Some may ask, why does Colombia matter? Why are we taking good tax dollars to help our neighbors to the south? I think the answer is simple. It matters because Colombia is shipping their drugs into the United States. It matters because the drug trade is a source of rampant lawlessness and violence within Colombia itself—violence and lawlessness, which has destabilized that country and now threatens the entire Andean region.

Fortunately, in the last few years, Congress has had the foresight to recognize the escalating threats, and we have been working to restore our drug-fighting capability beyond our shores. Many of us who have worked very tirelessly on the Colombian assistance package this year also worked together just a few short years ago to pass the Western Hemisphere Drug Elimination Act, which is now the law of the land. This 3-year plan is designed to restore international eradication, interdiction, and crop control to Latin America.

With this law, which we passed on a bipartisan basis, we have already made a $800 million downpayment—$200 million of which represents the first substantial investment in Colombia for counternarcotics activities.

The emergency assistance package that we have before us this afternoon is based on a blueprint that Senator COVERDELL and I developed and introduced last October—3 months before the administration unveiled its proposal. As our plan, the emergency assistance package the Senator from Kentucky has crafted goes beyond counternarcotics assistance and crop alternative development programs in Colombia. It goes beyond Colombia and targets other Latin-American countries, including Bolivia, Peru, Panama, and Ecuador.

This regional approach is the only approach, it is the right approach, and it is critical. Both Peru and Bolivia have been working to reducing drug cultivation in their respective countries, and they have done it with the help, candidly, of our assistance, and it has worked. Now, an emphasis only on the Colombian drug problems risks the obvious “spillover” effect of Colombia’s drug trade shifting to adjacent countries in the region.

Some of my colleagues have taken the floor today to express hesitancy and reluctance and opposition to this assistance. On my own experience, I want to take a moment to direct my comments specifically to them and specifically to some of my colleagues on this side of the aisle.

Our Western Hemisphere Drug Elimination Act was an attempt to change the direction of our national drug policy—a drug policy that clearly was not working. We took that first step. Today, we must take the second step. We must pass that very important legislation because we had to; we had to because the current administration, unfortunately, had presided over the literal dismantling of our international drug-fighting capability.

Let me explain. When President George Bush left the White House, we were spending approximately one-quarter of our total Federal antidrug budget on international drug interdiction, either on law enforcement in other countries, on the DEA, and on crop eradication. Basically, it was taking that huge chunk of the Federal antidrug budget and spending it to try to stop drugs from ever reaching our shores. It was a balanced approach and a very important approach because it was dealing with the global problem.

After 6 years of the Clinton Presidency, that percentage of our budget—that one-quarter of our total budget—was reduced to 13 to 14 percent, which is a dramatic reduction in the percentage of money we are spending on international drug interdiction.

That is why many of us in this body—on a bipartisan basis, in both the House and here in the Senate—worked to pass the Western Hemisphere Drug Elimination Act. Speaker HASTERT, before he was Speaker, played a major role in working on the House version of this bill, as did many, many others.

We passed that bill. It became law. It has made a difference. We have begun to at least reverse the direction of our foreign policy. We need to get back to that balanced approach where we spend money on international interdiction, domestic law enforcement, treatment, and education. It has to be a balanced approach.

We passed the bill, it became law, and we started to reverse that policy. The initiative for that came, quite candidly, from this side of the aisle, with support from the other side of the aisle. We saw what the administration was doing and we said that the policy had to change. We said we needed to put more money into interdiction, and that is exactly what we did. We said, candidly, we needed a policy and an emphasis on international drug interdiction, and we began to move in that direction. Now, today, we need to build on that effort.

We need to build on that effort, which today is focused primarily on the current crisis that we see in Colombia. Senators COVERDELL, GRASSLEY, FEINSTEIN, and others worked with me to put together a package specifically dealing with the situation in Colombia. I ask my colleagues to look at the big picture. Step back from the debate about this amendment and look at where we are going as a country. Think about what is in the best interest of Colombia, but of the United States. This assistance package before us, which my colleague from Kentucky has put together, was put together because Colombia is our neighbor, and what affects our neighbor to the south affects us. We have a very real interest in helping to stabilize Colombia and keeping it democratic, keeping it as our friend, keeping it as our trading partner, and keeping its drugs off our streets.

Colombia faces a crisis that is different than any crisis that any country has ever faced before in the history of the world. Many countries have faced guerrilla movements in the past few decades, but no country has ever faced guerrillas with as much money as the Colombian guerrillas have. I don’t know of any country that has ever faced a guerrilla movement supported by so much illegal drug money. A synergistic relationship is involved between the drug dealers and the guerrillas, and one benefits from the other; each one takes care of the other. While this is a crisis that Colombia faces, it is a crisis driven by those who consume drugs in our country, and we must admit that it is a crisis that directly impacts all of us in the United States. It directly impacts you; it directly impacts me, our children, and our grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to really consider the great human tragedy that Colombia is today. I ask my colleagues to remember how we got here, and to remember what role this side of the aisle, with help from the other side, played in trying to deal with the Colombian problem, and what role we’re in trying to increase the money we were spending and the resources we were providing to stop drugs from ever coming into our country.

The emergency aid package before us today is in the best interests of the Colombian-Andean region. There is no doubt about that. But, more importantly, and more significantly for this
body and for the vote we are about to cast, it is in the best interest of the United States.

It is clearly something we have to do. It may be tempting on the Gorton amendment to say: Look. Why don’t we just take that money? We don’t need to send it to Colombia. We don’t need to send it down the line. What do we care about what goes on in Colombia? Let’s keep it here, spend it here, and apply it to the national debt.

I understand how people may come to the floor and say that. I understand how people may come to the floor and think that and maybe even vote that way. But I think in the long run it would be a tragic mistake.

If we are trying to make an analogy, let me be quite candid. The analogy isn’t any long-term involvement in the United States. The analogy shouldn’t be to Bosnia; it shouldn’t be to Vietnam; it shouldn’t even be Kosovo. The analogy is what happened in the Central American countries in the 1980s.

Quite candidly, many people on this side of the aisle and on the other side were directly involved in trying to make sure democracy triumphed in Central America. We were successful because people took chances. People cast tough votes. People said we care. Today, when you travel through Central America, you find democracies. I have had the opportunity within the last several years to do that, and to travel to most every Central American country. No, things are not perfect. But each of those countries is moving towards more democracy. Each of those countries is moving towards more market-driven economies. Each of those countries has a chance to develop a middle class.

That is the analogy. The United States cared. We were involved. The people there got the job done. Colombia faces a very difficult challenge. Will this be the only time Members of the Senate are asked to vote on this and to send money to deal with this? Of course not. We all know that. This is a commitment, and it is probably going to be somewhat of a long commitment. But I think it is clearly in our national interest.

We vote today not to assist Colombia. We vote today really to assist ourselves because what happens in Colombia directly impacts the United States—whether it is trade, whether it is illegal immigration, or whether it is drugs coming into this country. What happens in that region of the world has a direct impact on people in Cleveland, on people in the Caribbean, on any State, or any city in the United States. We vote in our self-interest today for this package. We vote in our national self-interest, I believe, to vote down the Gorton amendment.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VON NOVICH). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FEINGOLD. 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. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to express my serious concerns about the foreign operations bill that is before us. I am concerned, and I believe that many of my colleagues will be concerned, about what is in this bill. And I am even more concerned about what is not in it.

What is here in this bill, is an extremely expensive package of support to the Colombian military, designated, of course, by the Senator from Vermont. I recognize that Colombia is a country in crisis. I believe that it is in the national interest of the United States to help Colombia emerge from that crisis and into an era in which basic human rights and the rule of law are firmly entrenched in the fabric of Colombian society.

I recognize that we all share an interest in fighting the terrible impact that illegal drugs have on our own society and in our own communities. So I have made a very serious effort to evaluate this initiative over a number of months. I have heard the perspectives of my constituents, of the business community, of human rights activists, and of the administration. I have also heard from Colombian civic groups and labor unions and from the Colombian government itself. In the end, I remain deeply skeptical about the wisdom of this undertaking.

My primary concerns about the proposed package of assistance to Colombia are two-fold. First, I am concerned about the degree to which this package involves the United States in a counter-insurgency campaign in Colombia. The aim of our assistance to the Colombian military would be to combat narcotics traffickers, I have no doubt—but its primary use would be to wage war against the rebels who control the south. Our country’s history teaches us something about how easy it is to get stuck in such situations, about how seductive arguments to increase our involvement might become after we invest massive resources in this phase of the counter-insurgency campaign. It troubles me that, because of the drug-related elements of the Colombian issue, we in this body are not, perhaps, walking into this scheme with our eyes wide open to these dangers.

But my primary concern, Mr. President, is the impact that Plan Colombia could have on the human rights of Colombians. The Colombian military, which this package of assistance would directly support, has been involved in serious human rights abuses and has a record of collaborating with the murderous paramilitary forces that terrorize Colombian citizens. The package in the foreign operations appropriation seems to be, in the words of the Economist magazine, to merely bolt three shiny new antiterror battalions on to an abusive and unreformed military force. That action would escalate a war in which civilians bear the brunt of the violence. I know that Senator LEAHY has worked hard to establish human rights conditions for the use of this assistance. But I am not at all certain that it is appropriate for the United States to engage the Colombian military to this degree at this time.

I note that the Senator from Vermont has a point when he questions the emergency designation for this spending package. Colombia has been in crisis for some time. But of course, the funding mechanism for this bill is this body from fiscal discipline—discipline, Mr. President, that we badly need.

In contrast, for a genuine emergency, for the devastating flooding in southern Africa, this bill provides only one-eighth, one eighth, of the administration’s request. It was not so long ago, that the entire country was moved by video and photographs of the people of southeastern Africa, clinging to life in trees and rooftops as flood waters rushed past them. These floods were particularly tragic because the country most seriously affected by them, Mozambique, has made significant strides toward recovery from its long and brutal civil war. Though the country is still affected by extreme poverty, in recent years Mozambique has enjoyed exceptional rates of economic growth. While more needs to be done, the country has improved its record with regard to basic human rights. Mr. President, the people of Mozambique have been fighting a bitter conflict. The kind of disaster comes at a terrible time, and it will require the assistance of the international community to help the people of Mozambique to hold to the opportunities that lay before them before the waters rise.

And an appropriate level of funding for the communities ravaged by flooding in southern Africa is just the beginning. Even a cursory glance will indicate that there is a great deal that is not in this appropriation by design.

The news is not entirely bad. I applaud the increased funding levels to combat the global HIV/AIDS crisis, which I believe is one of the most important international issues that this country faces in this new millennium, although I would still like to see that level increase.

And I am pleased to see provisions linking the resumption of certain military and security assistance programs for transition to free and fair elections which bolster the position of reformers in the new government by requiring real accountability for human rights abuses and real cooperation with
the international community on matters relating to East Timor. I would point out to my colleagues the fact that UNHCR personnel recently suspended activities in three refugee camps in West Timor because the security situation in these camps, where military-backed militias continue their campaign of intimidation and destabilization, has made it impossible for humanitarian workers to continue to do their jobs. Provisions like those included in this bill are still critically important as are the more comprehensive provisions of a bill that I have introduced, S. 2621, the East Timor Repatriation and Security Act of 2000.

Despite the laudable elements, this bill funds only $75 million of the administration's $262 million debt relief request—and that's excluding the $210 million supplemental request, which also goes unfunded. This bill barely addresses the crushing debt burden that stands as an obstacle to growth and development throughout much of the developing world. This bill allocates only $85 million for peacekeeping operations. That is a sizable cut. It is likely to threaten one of the most logical and far-sighted initiatives that we have in this area. Mr. President, the African Crisis Response Initiative, or ACRI, which trains African militaries to help them to become more effective in working to secure stability and to share the global burden of peacekeeping.

This bill cuts two of the most important accounts for international development aid, the ESF account and the World Bank IDA account, below fiscal year 2001 levels.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has found that the U.S., when compared to twenty other donor nations worldwide devotes the smallest portion of its national resources to development aid—the smallest portion by far. The typical donor country in the study contributed more than three times the share of national resources that the U.S. contributes. In fact, the U.S. fails—and fails miserably—to contribute the U.N. target level of even point-seven-percent—not seven percent, but seven-tenths of one percent—in aid to the developing world. The Center found that, using a number of different sources, the level of U.S. development aid in fiscal year 2001 would be equal to its lowest level since the end of World War II, measured as a share of the economy. That conclusion refers to the Administration's request, a request that falls far below the President's request. I believe that we must exercise more foresight and that we must re-think our priorities to make more room for the world around us and for the global context in which our great nation will operate in this new century.

I believe strongly in fiscal discipline. I believe in governing within our means. I know that means tough choices. But I also know some of the appropriations bills we have just passed and may yet see more of the same as we consider spending in fiscal year 2001. Yet we continue the disturbing trend, a trend that I believe runs counter to our national interest, and counter to our national identity, of turning our back on the rest of the world. I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 3377

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I wish to speak in opposition to the amendment offered by the Senator from Washington. Is there time remaining on that issue?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont controls the time, and there are 17 minutes.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am sorry. I was distracted. What is the Senator from Florida asking?

Mr. GRAHAM. Is the Senator controlling the time? Is the Senator from Washington?

Mr. LEAHY. Well, by default I am. Would the Senator like some time?

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes. I request 8 minutes.

Mr. LEAHY. I yield 8 minutes to my good friend, the senior Senator from Florida.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I have spoken earlier this afternoon on the issue of Colombia in the context of the amendment offered by the Senator from Minnesota. But now that we have another amendment relative to this provision within the foreign operations appropriations bill, I am pleased to have been afforded this opportunity to speak a second time.

I believe that the fundamental thrust of the amendment offered by the Senator from Washington, which would cut all but $200 million of the recommended appropriations for the United States share of the financing plan in Colombia, would essentially eviscerate not only the U.S. participation but would probably eliminate the prospects of other nations, that see themselves looking to the United States for leadership in terms of dealing with the crisis in Colombia, and which would probably have a very destabilizing effect on Colombia's stated intention to provide more than half of the $7.5 billion cost of the comprehensive plan in Colombia.

Essentially, what we would be saying, by adopting this amendment, is that we are prepared to see Colombia continue in the almost death spiral of downward direction in which it has been in for the past many months.

I would like to first point out what are some of the national interests of the United States that would be sacrificed if we were to allow that to occur. Of course, the most fundamental sacrifice would be the loss of an effective democratic partner in the efforts to build stability within the Western Hemisphere. Colombia is the longest continuous democracy on the continent of South America. It is a country that other countries, which are relatively new democracies, look to for leadership and example.

What a horrendous consequence it would be, if we were to respond to the call for help at this critical time, to be the principal agent of converting this nation of over half a century of democracy into a failed state.

There are also consequences to the region, particularly the Andean region. That is a region that is already in trouble, as I know the Presiding Officer is well aware.

There is a new and untested government in Venezuela. We have, in Ecuador, the first successful military coup in Latin America in almost two decades. Peru is in the midst of a very contentious election aftermath which in many quarters has been called incredible in the sense of not being a credible election.

Even Bolivia, which has been a source of stability, had to impose essentially a period of martial law. And on the north side, we have Panama, which has recently been taken from the control of the Panama Canal, and where there are great concerns about the stability of that country, and particularly its vulnerability to drug traffickers.

So here Colombia sits, in the middle of this very vulnerable, fractional part of our hemisphere. If it goes down, it will have enormous spillover effects, and the consequences will be dire for U.S. interests.

What we most think about when we hear the word "Colombia" is drugs. Colombia has become an even greater source of drugs due, in part, to the success of our efforts in Peru and Bolivia in reducing coca production, but also, unfortunately, due, in large part, to the fact that we now have a marriage between the narco traffickers, the guerrillas, and the paramilitaries who are all working together in various places in Colombia, particularly in the southernmost regions, to have contributed to a doubling, maybe soon a tripling, of drug production in that nation over the last decade.

Colombia is also an important economic partner of the United States. It has one of the larger economies in

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the world and is our fifth largest trading partner. It is also Latin America's largest economy and a major regional economic partner of the United States. It is also home to the world's largest economic partner of the United States. It is also home to the largest source of U.S. energy imports. It is also a major source of our imports of coffee, palm oil, and sugar. And so, it is a very important economic partner.

I would like to now talk about some of the specific provisions of the bill. It has been, unfortunately, due, in large part, to the fact that we now have a marriage between the narco traffickers, the guerrillas, and the paramilitaries who are all working together in various places in Colombia, particularly in the southernmost regions, to have contributed to a doubling, maybe soon a tripling, of drug production in that nation over the last decade.

Colombia is also an important economic partner of the United States. It has one of the larger economies in
Latin America, and it has been a significant trading partner for the United States.

Colombia has had a long period not only of democracy but also of sustained economic growth. It was not until 3 or 4 years ago that the record of every year being better than the last was broken in terms of the economy of Colombia. It was able to avoid a series of economic crises in South America and be a solid bastion of economic stability. That pattern is now broken, with 20 percent unemployment, a 3- to 5-percent drop in gross domestic product, and an outflow of investment.

Finally, we have a national interest in terms of the people of Colombia believing that their future and their hope is in Colombia, and that they do not have to flee and become another diaspora in the region.

There has been substantial out-migration, oftentimes of the people with the very skills that are going to be necessary to restore the democracy and economy in Colombia.

When I was in Bogotá, in December of last year, I was told that if you wanted to apply for a visa to leave Colombia, even as a tourist or for one of the standard visas, it took 10 months to get an appointment to meet with the U.S. consulate official to apply to get a visa. That is how backlogged they are because of the number of people who are trying to legally leave the country. One can imagine if these conditions of violence and economic turmoil continue how many people will be leaving illegally from Colombia with the United States as their primary destination.

We have a lot at stake. This is not a trivial issue with which we are dealing. I think, by a very strong vote, rejected previous propositions that would have diluted our capacity to be a good neighbor on this critical issue, that we will do so again in defeating the amendment offered by the Senator from Washington.

Once we have acted, we still will have some work to do, in particular work to do in terms of internationalizing the friends of Colombia to be a strong support group to continue this effort, remembering that 30 percent of Plan Colombia is going to be paid by other than the United States or Colombia—Colombians have yet to identify who will pick up that 30 percent of the cost—and that we must put greater emphasis on the economic recovery of Colombia, which I hope will include items such as bringing parity to the Andean pact nations vis-a-vis the region.

There is important work to do today, important work to do tomorrow. The goal is to be a good neighbor and contribute to the salvation of a very good friend of the United States, Colombia, at a time of dire need.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH of Oregon). The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. McCONNEL. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the first vote begin at 6:15, with the time between now and 6:15 divided equally between the Senator from Connecticut and the Senator from Washington.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I thank the Chair and my friend and colleague from Kentucky.

Mr. President, I rise to support the amendment offered by my friend and colleague, Mr. Lieberman, and I am proud to be a cosponsor of that amendment. I respectfully oppose the amendment offered by my friend and colleague from the State of Washington.

As has been amply testified to here in the Senate, and in testimony I have read, a crisis that includes a flourishing drug trade emanating from that country, an aggressive guerrilla movement spreading within it, right-wing paramilitary operations, and human rights abuses on all sides. All of this represents a fundamental threat to democratic government, the rule of law and economic prosperity in Colombia, and undermines stability in the region. It also, closer to home, results in the sad reality of a continued massive drug flow into these United States. There has been literally an explosion of cocaine and heroin production in Colombia, and too much of it ends up in our country.

The democratically elected leader of Colombia, President Pastrana, has urgently asked for our assistance and has shown strong leadership in developing a long-term comprehensive strategy for dealing with the multifaceted crisis his country faces.

The United States is not pushing its way into this situation, nor are we attempting to impose an outside solution. The Colombian Government quite simply cannot carry out these constructive plans it has without substantial help from its friends abroad. Our Government has responsibly pledged that the United States will make a major contribution to this critical effort, and I am convinced that is in our national interest to do so. The administration’s budget request for what has become known as Plan Colombia seeks to help that country and other nations in the region tackle the issues of the drug trade, guerrilla and paramilitary violence, human rights abuses, internally displaced people, and economic devastation.

This assistance package would allow for the purchase of 30 Blackhawk helicopters to do the essential job of transporting counter narcotics battalions into southern Colombia. These Blackhawks are fast, they have tremendous payload capacity, and they are well suited for long-range operations. Unfortunately, the Senate version of the foreign operations appropriations bill eliminates the funding for the Blackhawks and replaces them with twice as many of the slower, less capable Huey II helicopters. While the Huey II is an improvement over the 1960s vintage Huey helicopter, it does not have the same performance capabilities, including range, speed, lift, or survivability, at any altitude as does the Blackhawk.

The Colombian Army itself chose the Blackhawk to meet its long-term requirements for all of its forces and believes it is the best solution for providing helicopter support to the newly formed counternarcotics battalions. The Blackhawk would allow the Colombians to put more troops on the ground, more quickly and from greater distances, allowing for a higher initial entry of the battalions and for more aggressive operations. The Blackhawk II would allow the Colombians to put more troops on the ground, more quickly and from greater distances, allowing for a higher initial entry of the battalions and for more aggressive operations. The Blackhawk II would allow the Colombians to put more troops on the ground, more quickly and from greater distances, allowing for a higher initial entry of the battalions and for more aggressive operations.

In sum, the Colombians have concluded that the Blackhawk best suits their need for counter drug missions, which is at the heart of our American interest in this aid package. Both General McCaffrey and General Wilhelm have strongly concurred.

In addition, in May, a team of 24 U.S. Army aviation experts was sent to Colombia to conduct an assessment of the operational effectiveness and support requirements of the Blackhaws versus the Huey IIs in Colombia. In a preliminary report on its finding, the team said:

The superior troop carrying capacity and range of the UH-60L, or Blackhawk, versus the Huey II, coupled with the combat nature of operation, limited size of landing and pick up zones within the area of operations, the requirement to operate in high altitude areas and the increased survivability to both aircrew and troops, clearly indicated that the Blackhawk is the helicopter that should be fielded to Colombia in support of a counter drug effort.

That was from a U.S. Army report.

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region. Neither is this assistance a panacea to the problems of drug abuse and addiction in the United States. It is a stronger step forward.

For these reasons, I support the underlying package, oppose the Gorton amendment, and proudly support and cosponsor the Dodd amendment.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the capacity of this body for self-delusion seems to this Senator to be unlimited. Time after time, we permit this administration to involve us in some new armed conflict without seriously examining the consequences of that involvement, the cost of the involvement, the length of the involvement, or even the possibility that we will attain the goals of that involvement.

Mark my words, we are on the verge of doing exactly the same thing here that we have done so frequently in the last 7 or 8 years. This bill includes almost $1 billion for an entirely new, and almost totally military, involvement in a civil war in Latin America, without the slightest promise that our intervention will be a success, and it does it in a totally backward fashion.

The very committee report that recommends spending this almost $1 billion says that the committee ‘has grave reservations regarding the administration’s ability to effectively manage the use of these resources to achieve the expected results.’

Well, if we have grave reservations, why are we doing it before those reservations have been met?

The bill is a paradox. It says to the administration, spend $934 million, and then come to us and tell us what you have done and why it should go on. But if Kosovo and Bosnia are any indication, the administration comes back next year, the answer will be: Well, we are already in it; we can’t quit now.

That is what we have been told for 6 or 7 years in Bosnia and 2 or 3 in Kosovo, with no end in sight. And there will be no end in sight in either, Mr. President. This bill says let’s get in a war now and justify it later. My amendment says let’s hear the justification first; let’s seriously consider what we are getting into and then maybe vote the money.

This amendment takes $700 million of the $934 million and says, for now, let’s pay down the debt with it. Let’s expand the $934 million and says, for now, let’s maybe vote the money.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) the free and fair national referendum was held in Zimbabwe in February 2000 in which voters rejected proposed constitutional amendments to increase the president’s authorities to expropriate land without payment;

(2) the President of Zimbabwe has defied two high court decisions declaring land seizures to be illegal;

(3) previous land reform efforts have been ineffective largely due to corrupt practices and inefficiencies within the Government of Zimbabwe;

(4) violence in Zimbabwe has resulted in several murders and brutal attacks on innocent individuals, including the murder of farm workers and owners; and

(5) violence has been directed toward individuals of all races;

(6) the ruling party and its supporters have specifically directed violence at democratic reform activists seeking to prepare for upcoming parliamentary elections;

(7) the offices of a leading independent newspaper in Zimbabwe have been bombed;

(8) the Government of Zimbabwe has not yet publicly condemned the recent violence;

(9) President Mugabe’s statement that thousands of law-abiding citizens are enumerated in the war is a further incited violence;

(10) 147 out of 150 members of the Parliament in Zimbabwe (99 percent) belong to the same political party;

(11) the unemployment rate in Zimbabwe now exceeds 60 percent and political turmoil is on the brink of destroying Zimbabwe’s economy;

(12) the economy is being further damaged by the Government of Zimbabwe’s ongoing involvement in the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

(13) the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization has issued a warning that Zimbabwe faces a food crisis emergency due to shortages caused by violence against farmers and farm workers; and

(14) events in Zimbabwe could threaten stability and economic development in the entire region.

The Governor of Zimbabwe has rejected international election observation delegation accreditation for United States-based nongovernmental organizations, including the International Republican Institute and National Democratic Institute, and is also denying accreditation for other nongovernmental organizations and election observers of certain specified nationalities.

(3) the people of Zimbabwe are now suffering the destabilizing effects of a serious, government-sanctioned breakdown in the rule of law, which is critical to economic development as well as domestic tranquility;

(4) a free and fair national referendum was held in Zimbabwe in February 2000 in which voters rejected proposed constitutional amendments to increase the president’s authorities to expropriate land without payment;

(5) the President of Zimbabwe has defied two high court decisions declaring land seizures to be illegal;

(6) previous land reform efforts have been ineffective largely due to corrupt practices and inefficiencies within the Government of Zimbabwe;

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(17) events in Zimbabwe could threaten stability and economic development in the entire region.

(3) the people of Zimbabwe are now suffering the destabilizing effects of a serious, government-sanctioned breakdown in the rule of law, which is critical to economic development as well as domestic tranquility;
(4) condemns government-directed violence against farm workers, farmers, and opposition party members;
(5) encourages the local media, civil society, and all political parties to work together toward a campaign environment conducive to free, transparent and fair elections within the legally prescribed period;
(6) recommends international support for voter education, domestic and international election monitoring, and violence monitoring activities;
(7) urges the United States to continue to monitor violence, and condemn brutality against law abiding citizens;
(8) congratulates all the democratic reform activists in Zimbabwe for their resolve to bring about political change peacefully, even in the face of violence and intimidation; and
(9) desires a lasting, warm, and mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and a democratic, peaceful Zimbabwe.

AMENDMENT NO. 3519
(Purpose: To express the sense of the Senate regarding the significance of the availability of assistance provided under this Act for an acceleration of the accession of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO))

On page 20, line 2, after the word "Development," insert the following:

SEC. 591. It is the sense of the Senate that nothing in this Act regarding the assistance provided to Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania under the heading "FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING PROGRAM" should be interpreted as expressing the sense of the Senate regarding an acceleration of the accession of Estonia, Latvia, or Lithuania to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

AMENDMENT NO. 3599, AS MODIFIED
(Purpose: To authorize non-lethal, material assistance to protect civilians in Sudan from attacks, slave raids, and aerial bombardment.)

On page 140, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, in one minute: The amendment I am proposing along with my colleague from Connecticut and others merely says the decision on which type of equipment shall be used in the Colombian effort ought to be determined by the U.S. military in conjunction with the Colombian military. The language requires specifically a Huey helicopter. I do not think that decision ought to be made by Members of Congress, necessarily. The military, categorically, in a 24-member review of what was needed to make the program in Colombia successful, requests that it be the Blackhawk helicopter.

In a letter from the Colombian Minister of Defense they specifically request it. They would have to change their entire infrastructure to handle a Huey helicopter. The cost is excessive—more than the Blackhawk. The amendment doesn’t say to buy Blackhawks, it says let the military make the decision. Congress ought not be mandating the kind of equipment that is going to help best to make this work. Our amendment allows for the experts to make the decision, not Members of Congress.

I urge adoption of the amendment and ask unanimous consent the letter be printed in the RECORD.
There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, following:

REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA,
MINISTERIO DE DEFENSA NACIONAL,

Hon. TED STEVENS,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. C.W. YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN: We wish to thank the U.S. Congress for its support of Plan Colombia and the U.S. Administration’s aid package to assist the people of Colombia in their fight against the explosive cultivation of coca. With your support, this aid will reverse the trend of increased drug production, violence and instability that we are all too familiar with.

While we are grateful for your consideration of the aid package, we are concerned with the Senate’s proposal to replace the 30 UH-60L Blackhawks with 60 “Huey II” helicopters. The decision to provide the Colombian Military with UH-60 helicopters was determined jointly by Colombian and U.S. Military experts to be the best aircraft for the mission.

The Blackhawk is our clear choice given the austere environment in which our security forces must operate. First, it has redundant systems and protections that not only make it much more difficult to shoot down, but more importantly, affords our soldiers and crew increased survivability in a crash. Second, the Blackhawk is 50% faster than the Huey II allowing a quicker response time for our security forces to reach remote, inaccessible drug producing areas. Third, it has much greater range. Therefore, the need for forward arming and refueling stations is significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more troops and security forces on the ground twice as much at sea level, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced. Fourth, the Blackhawk flies and operates better at higher altitudes, inserting more number of soldiers at high altitudes and significantly reduced.

We appreciate the efforts and kind support you have given in this process. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

MAYOR GENERAL LUIS ENRIQUE GILBERT VARGAS,
Director of National Solidarity

GENERAL FABIO VELASCO CHAVEZ,
Commander in Chief of the Air Force

ADMIRAL SHIKO GARCIA TORRES,
Commander in Chief of the Navy

GENERAL JORGE ENRIQUE MORA RANGIEL,
Commander in Chief of the Army

GENERAL FERNANDO TAPIAS STAHLIN,
Commander in Chief of the Military Forces,

LUIS FERNANDO RAMIREZ ACUÑA,
Minister of National Defense

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

The Senate will be in order.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the issue is this. We do not have enough Blackhawks for our own troops, much less the Colombian troops. The Blackhawks are much more expensive, about $1,000 an hour more expensive to operate. The Huey II will get the job done. We ought to do that in the most efficient way, looking not only at this year’s appropriation but down the road. We will add up the operation and maintenance cost on the Blackhawk in subsequent years. The Huey II will do the job.

The Senator from Connecticut has the floor.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I believe we are very close to getting an agreement that would get the remaining amendments done tonight.
Then, in the morning, we could turn to the Labor-HHS appropriations bill and have final votes at 2 o’clock, both on any amendments and final passage of the foreign operations appropriations bill and any amendments that might be ready to be voted on and put in that staked sequence at 2 o’clock tomorrow.

We do not quite have that agreement yet. But for all Senators who are still working on it, I hope they will work with us to get it completed momentarily. If that cannot be done, I will be calling up the Kyl amendment No. 3558, and getting a second so we can have a rolloff vote on that, and other amendments, tonight.

I think we can get this bill done without having to have that recorded vote. But if we can’t get an agreement as to how we are going to complete our work, then we will be having more votes tonight.

So for the Senators who are waiting to get final information, I’ll give us a few more minutes. I think we are about to the point where we can enter this agreement, and then we would have a feel for the remainder of the night.

Mr. LEAHY. If the Senator from Mississippi will yield, Senators have been working very hard on both sides to clear things. I suggest this as an alternative to some of my colleagues. A number of matters are things that could just as well be handled in report language.

The Senator from Kentucky and I, in some of those instances, have been able to work that out. With the help of both the Republican leadership and the Democratic leadership, we have been able to get rid of many of these amendments. I think we are so close to working out the suggestion the distinguished Senator from Mississippi has made, that Senators should look at that. It is one that is strongly supported by the managers of this bill. I hope we might make it possible to do it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in cooperation with the manager on our side, we have worked very hard to move this legislation along. On the proposed unanimous consent request that would be propounded by the majority leader, we would complete debate on all amendments tonight and vote, as the leader indicated, tomorrow after 12 o’clock. We have one outstanding objection on that. We are in the process of working to have that resolved. We hope to have that done in the near future.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 3553, 3577, 3515, 3546, AS MODIFIED, 3547, AS MODIFIED, 3549, AS MODIFIED, 3545, AS MODIFIED, AND 3522, AS MODIFIED, EN BLOC

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we have some more amendments that have been cleared on both sides. I call upon amendment No. 3553 by myself; amendments Nos. 3555, Senator BYRD; amendment No. 3515, Senator SHELBY. Then the following amendments, Mr. President, I call up and send modifications to those amendments to the desk: Senator REID, No. 3546; Senator REID, No. 3547; Senator REID, No. 3549; Senator CHAFEE, amendment No. 3545; Senator HELMS, amendment No. 3172; Senator LANDRIEU, amendment No. 3522.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield, I believe there is still a question on the amendment by the distinguished Senator from Rhode Island that we are trying to work out. I wonder if that could be withheld for the moment.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The Senator says there is a question about the Chafee amendment.

Mr. LEAHY. Yes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I will withhold the Chafee amendment No. 3545. These are the modifications which I send to the desk.

Mr. LEAHY. I will continue to work with my friend from Rhode Island to see if we can work out whatever the problem is.

AMENDMENT NO. 3527

(Purpose: To transfer $24 million from elsewhere in the bill to Peace Corps to bring FY 2001 funding up to FY 2000 levels)

Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. President, I send a Dodd amendment to the desk and ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL) for Mr. DODD, proposes an amendment numbered 3527.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of number 3527.

Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 28, line 4 strike all after the first comma thru the word “Provided.”, on line 8, and insert in lieu thereof the following:

“$244,000,000, including the purchase of not to exceed five passenger motor vehicles for administration purposes for use outside the United States: Provided, That $24,000,000 of such sums be made available from funds already appropriated by the Act, that are not otherwise earmarked for specific purposes: Provided further.”.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, the amendment I have offered would restore the FY 2001 appropriations for Peace Corps programs to FY 2000 appropriations levels.

Today, approximately 7000 Americans are Peace Corps volunteers. They are recent college graduates, mid-career professionals, and retired seniors. They live and work in the far corners of the globe—in Africa, Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and the Pacific. As we consider this matter, American volunteers are diligently working to improve the lives of citizens in 77 countries throughout the world.

Mr. President, the President has requested $275 million in appropriations for FY 2001. While I would like to see this Senate approve an amendment to increase funding in this bill to meet the administration’s request, I am simply asking that the Senate restore funding to the FY 2000 levels.

My request of my colleagues is a modest one—their support for an amendment to raise funding in this bill for the Peace Corps by $24 million—from $220 million to $244 million—to bring the FY 2001 appropriations for this agency up to this fiscal year’s appropriations. This amendment does not add any new money to the bill, but rather allows the Clinton administration to use unearmarked funds already appropriated in this bill.

Absent adoption of this amendment, the Appropriations Committee mark will reduce funding for the upcoming fiscal year by 10 percent over the current fiscal year’s funding for the Peace Corps.

What are the consequences of such reductions in funding?

Peace Corps posts will have to be shut down in as many as eleven countries.

The number of new volunteers accepted by the agency will have to be cut by 16 percent, some 1,250 fewer individuals will have the honor of serving their country.

Plans for new initiatives to enable Peace Corps volunteers to bring the benefits of information technology to underserved communities throughout the world and to bolster HIV/AIDS prevention priorities in Africa and elsewhere will fall by the wayside.

New country programs will remain unfunded.

The agency’s ability to provide future emergency assistance through its newly established Crisis Corps of returned volunteers to respond to the devastation of unanticipated disasters such as those experienced in Central America following the 1998 devastation of Hurricane Mitch will be severely impaired.

Finally it will undermine the AGENCY’s ability to replace outdated computer systems in order to meet government financial management requirements, not terribly exciting but very important to the overall functioning of the Peace Corps as an organization.

The funding level in the bill is totally inconsistent with what the Congress did in 1999. Last year the Congress went on record in support of increased funding for the Peace Corps for FY 2001 to $298 million—beyond the Administration’s request—in order to support an increase in Peace Corps volunteers.

I am not asking the Senate to vote on an increase of that magnitude today. I am simply asking support for a steady state budget.
Mr. President, thirty-four years ago, I was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic. My two years as a volunteer had a profound impact on my life. I will treasure my Peace Corps experience forever—as will nearly every returned Peace Corps volunteer one meets.

Next year the Peace Corps will celebrate its 40th anniversary. It is important that we insure that the agency is sufficiently funded to live up to the expectations that its success has engendered throughout the world.

For these reasons I strongly urge my colleagues to support this amendment and the restoration of funding for the Peace Corps.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3527) was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we have the block of amendments that have been cleared on both sides at the desk, some of them as modified.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendments are agreed to.

The amendments (Nos. 3553; 3557; 3515; 3546, as modified; 3547, as modified; 3522; as modified; and 3523, as modified), on bloc, were agreed to as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3553
On page 33, line 18, insert, "Provided further.
That funds made available as a U.S. contribution to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Trust Fund shall be subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations".

AMENDMENT NO. 3557
(Purpose: To make technical amendments to language limiting support for Plan Colombia.

Beginning on page 151, line 21, strike "(a)" and all that follows through line 7 on page 152 and insert the following:

LIMITATION ON SUPPORT FOR PLAN COLOMBIA.—
(1) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by any Act shall be available for support of Plan Colombia unless and until—
(A) the President submits a report to Congress requesting the availability of such funds; and
(B) Congress enacts a joint resolution approving the request of the President under subparagraph (A).

(2) EXCEPTION.—The limitation in paragraph (1) does not apply to—
(A) appropriations made by this Act, the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2001, or the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2001, for the purpose of support of Plan Colombia; or
(B) the unobligated balances from any other program used for their originally appropriated purpose to combat drug production and trafficking, foster peace, increase the rule of law, improve human rights, expand economic development, and institute justice reform in the countries covered by Plan Colombia.

AMENDMENT NO. 3546, AS MODIFIED
(Purpose: To allocate funds for the Secretary of State to meet with representatives of countries with a high incidence of the practice of dowry deaths or honor killings to develop a strategy for ending the practices, and for other purposes)

On page 152, line 19, strike "500" and insert "500000".

On page 152, strike lines 20 and 21.

On page 153, line 1, insert ""United States" after "of".

On page 153, line 4, strike "100" and insert "300".

On page 153, between lines 18 and 19, insert the following:

(d) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the authority of the President to carry out any emergency evacuation of United States citizens or any search or focus operation for United States military personnel or other United States citizens.

(e) REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR PLAN COLOMBIA.—Not later than June 1, 2001, and not later than June 1 and December 1 of each of the succeeding four fiscal years, the President shall submit a report to Congress setting forth any costs (including incremental costs incurred by the Department of Defense) incurred by any department, agency, or other entity of the Executive branch of Government during that two previous fiscal years in support of Plan Colombia. Each such report shall provide an itemization of expenditures by each such department, agency, or entity.

On page 153, line 19, strike "(d) MONTHLY REPORTS"., and insert "(f) BIMONTHLY REPORTS".

On page 153, line 21, strike "30" and insert "60".

On page 154, line 1, insert ""United States" after "and"

On page 154, line 3, strike "(e)" and insert "(g)".

On page 154, line 5, strike "subsection (a)(2)" and insert "subsection (a)(1)(B)".

On page 154, line 9, strike "subsection (a)(1)(B)" and insert "subsection (a)(1)(A)".

On page 154, line 12, strike "subsection (a)(1)(D)" and insert "subsection (a)(1)(A)".

On page 155, line 12, strike "(f)" and insert "(h)".

AMENDMENT NO. 3555
(Purpose: To make the limitation on assignment of United States personnel in Colombia inapplicable to certain intelligence and enforcement of laws prohibiting the practice.

On page 155, between lines 18 and 19, insert the following:

(g) NATIONAL SECURITY EXEMPTION.—The limitation contained in subsection (b)(1) shall not apply with respect to any activity subject to reporting under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 413 et seq.).

AMENDMENT NO. 3546, AS MODIFIED
(Purpose: To authorize the Secretary of State to determine the necessity of support for female genital mutilation and to development recommendations for eliminating the practice)

On page 140, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. ___. ELIMINATION OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION.

The Secretary of State shall conduct a study to determine the prevalence of the practice of female genital mutilation. The study shall include the existence and enforcement of laws prohibiting the practice. The Secretary shall submit the findings of the study and recommendations on how the United States can best work to eliminate the practice of female genital mutilation, to the appropriate congressional committees by June 1, 2001.

AMENDMENT NO. 3572, AS MODIFIED
(Purpose: Relating to support by the Russian Federation for Serbia)

On page 140, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. ___. SUPPORT BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FOR SERBIA.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—
(1) General Dragolub Ojdanic, Minister of Defense of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and an indicted war criminal, visited Moscow from May 7 through May 12, 2000, as a guest of the Government of the Russian Federation, attended the inauguration of President Vladimir Putin, and held talks with Russian Defense Minister Igor Sergeyev and Army Chief of Staff Anatoly Kvashnin;
(2) General Ojdanic was military Chief of Staff of the Russian Federation for Yugoslavia during the Kosovo war and has been indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) for crimes against humanity and violations of the laws and customs of war; (b) General Dragolub Ojdanic’s arrest and extradition to the Hague; (c) The Government of the Russian Federation, a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council which established the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, has an obligation to arrest General Ojdanic and extradite him to the Hague;
(3) On May 16, 2000, Russian Minister of Economics Andrei Shapovalyants announced

DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
(1) Dowry death.—The term "dowry death" means the killing of a woman because of a dowry dispute.
(2) Honor killing.—The term "honor killing" means the murder of a woman suspected of dishonoring her family.

AMENDMENT NO. 3549, AS MODIFIED
(Purpose: To provide for funding by the United States for International Development to be used to develop and integrate, where appropriate, educational programs aimed at eliminating the practice of female genital mutilation.

On page 12, line 14, strike "loans" and insert the following: "loans: Provided further. That of the funds appropriated under this heading, up to $1,500,000 may be used to develop and integrate, where appropriate, educational programs aimed at eliminating the practice of female genital mutilation.".
that his government has provided the Ser-
bian and Yugoslav National Bank with 
$32,000,000, of oil despite the fact that the
international community has imposed eco-
nomic sanctions against the Government of
the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the
Government of Serbia; and
(6) the Government of the Russian Federa-
tion is providing the Milosevic regime such
assistance while it is seeking debt relief from
the international community and loans from the
Monetary Fund, and while it is receiving corn and grain as food
aid from the United States;
(7) the hospitality provided to General
Oslanic demonstrates that the Government
of the Russian Federation rejects the indict-
ments brought by the International Criminal
Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia against
him and other officials, including Slobodan
Milosevic, for alleged atrocities committed
during the Kosovo war; and
(8) the relationship between the Govern-
ment of the Russian Federation and the Gov-
ernments of the Federal Republic of Yugo-
slavia and Serbia only encourages the regime
of Slobodan Milosevic to foment instability in the region and thereby jeopardizes
the safety and security of American military and
civilian personnel and raises questions about
Russia’s commitment to its responsibilities as
a member of the North American Treaty
Organization-led peacekeeping mission in
Kosovo.

(b) ACTIONS.
(I) Fifteen days after the date of enact-
ment of this Act, the President shall submit
a report to Congress detailing all loans, fi-
nancial assistance, and energy sales the Gov-
ernment of the Russian Federation or enti-
ties acting on its behalf has provided since
June 1999, and intends to provide to the Gov-
ernment of Serbia or the Government of the
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia or any enti-
ties under the control of the Governments of
Serbia or the Federal Republic of Yugo-
slavia.
(II) If that report determines that the Gov-
ernment of the Russian Federation or other entities acting on its behalf has provided or
intends to provide the governments of Serbia or the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia or any entity under their control any loans or eco-
nomic assistance and oil sales, then the fol-
lowing shall apply:

(A) The Secretary of State shall reduce as-
sistance obligated to the Russian Federation
by an amount equal in value to the loans, fi-
nancial assistance, and energy sales the Gov-
ernment of the Russian Federation has pro-
vided and intends to provide to the Govern-
ments of Serbia and the Federal Republic of
Yugoslavia.
(B) The Secretary of the Treasury shall
instruct the United States executive direc-
tors of the international financial institu-
tions to oppose, and vote against, any exten-
ation by those institutions of any financial
assistance (including any technical assis-
tance or grant) of any kind to the Govern-
ment of the Russian Federation except for
loans and assistance that serve basic human
needs.
(ii) In this subparagraph, the term “inter-
national financial institution” includes the
International Monetary Fund, the Inter-
national Bank for Reconstruction and Devel-
opment, the International Development As-
sociation, the International Finance Cor-
poration, the Overseas Private Investment Guar-
anty Agency, and the European Bank for Re-
construction and Development.
(C) The United States shall suspend exist-
ing programs provided by the Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Cor-
poration, and any consideration of any new loans, guarantees, and other forms of assistance by
the Export-Import Bank or the Overseas Pri-
vate Investment Corporation to Russia.
(D) The President may waive the actions
described in paragraphs (B) and (C) if he deter-
mines and reports to Congress that it is in the
national interests of the United States of
America.
(II) In the sense of the Senate that—The
President of the United States should in-
struct his representatives to negotiations on
Russia’s international debt to oppose further
forgiveness, restructurings, and rescheduling of
debt, including that being considered under
the “Comprehensive” Paris Club negoti-
ations.

AMENDMENT NO. 3522 AS MODIFIED
(Purpose: To provide for the rehabilitation of the transpor-
tation infrastructure of Bul-
"garia and Romania"
At the appropriate place, insert:
"Provided, That not less than $15,000,000 of the
funds made available under the previous
proviso shall be made available from funds
appropriated under the Economic Support
Fund."
Mr. LEAHY. I suggest the absence of
a quorum.
Mr. PRESIDING OFFICER. The
clerk will call the roll.
Mr. WELLSTONE. I ask
unanimous consent that the order for
the quorum call be rescinded.
Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I
ask unanimous consent that the order for
the quorum call be rescinded.

AMENDMENT NO. 3568
Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I
do not know whether we have reached
agreement or not or whether there will be
an agreement on this matter.
I thank my colleagues. I believe
amendment No. 3568 has been accepted.
This is an amendment I have offered
with Senator BROWNBACK, who is in the
chair. I point out to colleagues that
this amendment would use $250,000 of
the funds appropriated to Kosovo to
help police better identify and respond
to cases of trafficking. It also would
provide some help for those who live in
the Newly Independent States of the
former Soviet Union who have been
victims of trafficking. I thank both the
Senator from Kentucky and the Sena-
tor from Vermont for accepting this
amendment.
I especially thank Senator
BROWNBACK for the work I have been
able to do with him dealing with the
awful aspect of this new global econ-
omy: the trafficking of women forced
into prostitution, and terrible labor
conditions. We have a great piece of
legislation. Both of us hope it will pass
soon. This amendment to this piece of
legislation is a good step in the right
direction. I thank my colleague, Sena-
tor BROWNBACK, for his support. I
thank Senators for supporting this
amendment.
I yield the floor.
Mr. PRESIDING OFFICER. The
Senator from Pennsylvania.

AMENDMENT NO. 3568
(Purpose: To make available up to $1,000,000 to
fund the Secretary of Defense to work
with the appropriate authorities of the
Cuban government to prevent the traf-
cicking of women forced into prostitu-
tion, and to fund the Secretary of
Defense for assistance in the interclos-
tion of illicit drugs being transported over Cuba air space
and waters)
Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have
an amendment which has been cleared
on both sides. I send the amendment to
the clerk, and ask for its immediate con-
consideration.
Mr. PRESIDING OFFICER. The
clerk will report.
The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SPECTER] proposes an amendment numbered 3588.

Mr. PRESIDENT. I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 142, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. 2. UNITED STATES-CUBAN MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN THE INTERDICATION OF ILLEGAL DRUGS.

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Of the amount appropriated under the heading "Department of State, International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement", up to $1,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary of Defense, on behalf of the United States Coast Guard, the United States Customs Service, and other bodies to work with the appropriate authorities of the Cuban government to provide for greater cooperation, coordination, and other mutual assistance in the interdiction of illegal drugs being transported over Cuban airspace and waters, provided that such assistance may only be provided after the President determines and certifies to Congress that:

(a) Cuba has appropriate procedures in place to protect against innocent loss of life in the air and on the ground in connection with interdiction of illegal drugs; and

(b) that there is no evidence of the involvement of the government of Cuba in drug trafficking.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, the essence of this amendment is that up to $1 million shall be made available to the Secretary of Defense on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Customs Service, and other bodies to work with the appropriate authorities of the Cuban Government to provide for greater cooperation, coordination, and other mutual assistance in the interdiction of illegal drugs being transported over Cuban airspace and waters, provided that such assistance may only be provided after the President determines and certifies to Congress that Cuba has appropriate procedures in place to protect against innocent loss of life in the air and on the ground in connection with interdiction of illegal drugs; and that there is no evidence of the involvement of the government of Cuba in drug trafficking.

The Government of Cuba has been prepared for some time to provide further assistance to the United States through the use of their airspace and coastal waters on drug interdiction.

In June of 1999, I had occasion to visit Cuba and I had a long meeting with their President, Fidel Castro. We covered a wide variety of subjects. One of them was the issue of drug interdiction.

I believe this is a measure which our officials in all branches of the Federal Government favor to try to cut down on the flow of drugs. There is, obviously, a demand side that I supported the crime bill of 1994. It is because of the demand for drugs, there will be a supply. But, again, as long as there is a demand for drugs, there will be a supply. So it is my view that the wiser course of action is to spend more money on education and rehabilitation through the drug courts, which are now part of the crime bill of 1994. It is because of my view that funds are better spent on rehabilitation and education and the demand side that I supported the Wellstone amendment.

I thank my colleagues who have worked with me to clear this amendment. As with most Senators, I would like to have a rollover vote. We are trying to bring this matter to a conclusion. Tomorrow, we are going to start on the appropriations bill of Labor, Health, Human Services, and Education, which comes from the subcommittee I chair. So I appreciate the acceptance of this amendment.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3588) was agreed to.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LOTT. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3569

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3569.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. NICKLES] proposes an amendment numbered 3569.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 142, line 11 after the word "purposes:" insert the following: "President further, That of the funds made available under this heading, not less than $100,000,000 shall be made available by the Department of State to the Department of Justice for counternarcotic activity initiatives specifically policing initiatives to combat methamphetamine production and trafficking and to enhance policing initiatives in drug 'hot spots'."

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, just briefly, this amendment would transfer $100 million away from the Colombian aid into the Department of Justice to be used for drug interdiction, for counternarcotic activities including and especially to combat methamphetamine production and trafficking, which is rampant throughout the United States, and also to use this money to enhance policing initiatives throughout the country in drug hotspots.

I appreciate the cooperation of my colleagues and hope we will have an affirmative vote on that.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, we may need a moment more to have a chance to review the unanimous consent proposal. I believe we have one worked out that is fair and acceptable to Senators on both sides of the aisle. If we can get this agreement entered into then there would be no further votes tonight, nor in the morning. Then we would begin the final debate at 1:30, with the votes that are necessary stacked at 2 p.m., and final passage at that time.

In the morning, though, we would go to Labor-HHS Appropriations at 9:30. Any votes relative to that bill would also be put in a stacked sequence beginning at 2 p.m., if any are ready.
made on that bill tomorrow. We look forward to working with the managers of that legislation in order to the pending bill be offered and debated tonight, along with any relevant second-degree amendments, and the votes occur in relation to those amendments beginning at 2 p.m. on Thursday, with 4 minutes prior to each vote for explanation.

I further ask consent that at 1:20 p.m. on Thursday, the Senate resume consideration of the pending bill, and Senator Feingold be recognized to offer his filed amendment regarding Mozambique. I am sure that amendment be voted on in the voting sequence under the same terms as outlined above.

I further ask consent that following the introduction of the Feingold amendment, it be laid aside and Senator Boxer be recognized to call up her two filed amendments, Nos. 3541 and 3542, and there be 40 minutes total for debate on both amendments, with the votes occurring in the voting sequence as outlined above.

I ask unanimous consent that following the disposition of the amendments, the bill be advanced to third reading and the Senate proceed to vote on that motion. I further ask consent that following that vote, the bill then be placed back on the calendar awaiting the House companion bill.

I further ask consent that at 9:30 a.m., the Senate begin consideration of the House Labor-HHS and Education appropriations bill and any votes ordered due to that bill, following the concurrence of the two leaders, occur at the end of the voting sequence scheduled at 2 p.m. on Thursday, with the same 4 minutes allocated for explanation prior to those votes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I ask the majority leader, with regard to the amendment I intend to offer, I hope the agreement contemplates the possibility that we can work out something on the amendment so a vote would not be required.

Mr. LOTT. Certainly. That is always the case. If the Senator gets it worked out, or something changes his mind, he obviously would have that opportunity. The managers, I am sure, would be glad to work with him this evening to work out some satisfactory way. I don't know the substance of the amendment, other than Mr. Boxer. Certainly, that would be contemplated.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, if the Senator will yield, the conversation Senator Leahy and I had with the manager of the bill is that we have talked about their reviewing that very closely to see if something can be worked out. Today, there was a very emotional event at the White House. Senator Inouye was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. It was one of the most dramatic events I have ever attended. Senator Akaka is calling and he desires some morning business to talk about this. There are lots of people in from Hawaii and from around the country. We are coming in at 9:30 a.m. to begin Labor-HHS.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, why don't we amend the request to say that we come in at 9:30, and after the opening and the prayer, we go to Senator Akaka for 30 minutes, and we will begin Labor-HHS bill at 10 o'clock. We are all talking of Senator Inouye and how he and the men of his unit served this country. For it to be appropriately memorialized in this Chamber by his colleague from Hawaii is more than appropriate, I am pleased to make that addition.

Mr. REID. Further reserving the right to object, when Senator McConnell finishes his business tonight—and that should be shortly—I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Rhode Island be recognized for 30 minutes, and that the Senator from Nebraska, Mr. Reid, be able to speak. I have amendments that the committee has worked on during the day, and I would like to speak on those after Senator Reid from Rhode Island speaks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I want to further clarify that there would be no prohibition in this unanimous consent agreement if it would be necessary to withdraw the amendment which I propose.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, certainly I know of no reason the Senate wouldn't agree to the Senator's amendment being withdrawn if the Senator desires to do so.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, will the majority leader simply have that reflected in the agreement?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I include in the unanimous consent request that if Senator Feingold wishes to withdraw his amendment, that would be in order.

Mr. FEINGOLD. I thank the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, in light of this agreement, there will be no further votes tonight, and the next series of votes will occur at 2 p.m. on Thursday.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I would simply like to thank the majority leader. Much of this was done to accommodate my daughter's graduation tomorrow morning. He went out of his way. I thank him, as well as the minority leader and the minority whip, for doing that for me. It shows the comity of the Senate, as well. I thank all of the leaders for that.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank Senator Schumer. I thank all of my colleagues and the managers for the work they are doing.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished majority leader for helping us wrap up this matter in due time.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, will the Senator yield before the majority leader leaves?

Mr. McCONNELL. I yield to the Senator from Nevada.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, when we were riding up here together, I told the Senator we couldn't talk about this. Mr. LOTT. The Senator was right.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

AMENDMENT NO. 3589

(Purpose: To provide emergency funding to the Department of Commerce and the Department of Agriculture to assist communities affected by Hurricane Floyd, Hurricane Dennis, or Hurricane Irene)

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I yield to the Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. SCHUMER. I thank all of my colleagues and the managers for the work they are doing.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 140, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

Emergency Funding to Assist Communities Affected by Hurricane Floyd, Hurricane Dennis, or Hurricane Irene

SEC. 5. (a) Economic Development Assistance.—

(1) In general.—There is appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for fiscal year 2000, for an additional amount for “Economic Development Assistance Programs”, $125,000,000, to remain available until expended, for planning assistance and public works grants, and revolving loan funds to assist communities affected by Hurricane Floyd, Hurricane Dennis, or Hurricane Irene.

(2) Emergency Designation.—The $125,000,000—

(A) shall be available only to the extent that the President submits to Congress an official budget request for a specific dollar amount that includes designation of the entire amount of the request as an emergency

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McConnell), for Mr. Edwards, Mr. Torricelli, and Mr. Roberts, proposes an amendment numbered 3589.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 140, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

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(A) shall be available only to the extent that the President submits to Congress an official budget request for a specific dollar amount that includes designation of the entire amount of the request as an emergency
requirement for the purposes of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901 et seq.); and
(B) is designated by Congress as an emergency requirement under section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)).

(b) COMMUNITY FACILITIES GRANTS.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—There is appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for fiscal year 2000, an additional amount for the rural community assistance program under section 306(a)(19) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(19)) with respect to areas subject to a declaration of a major disaster under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) as a result of Hurricane Floyd, Hurricane Dennis, or Hurricane Irene.

(2) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—The $125,000,000 is designated by Congress as an emergency requirement under section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)).

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. President, let me begin by thanking Senators STEVENS, LOTT, McCONNELL, LEAHY, and BYRD for accepting this amendment, No. 3582.

Throughout the process of dealing with Hurricane Floyd and its impact on my State they have insisted on their help and deserve the thanks and deep appreciation of the people of North Carolina. I've also had the honor of working with Senators TORRICELLI and ROSS on this amendment. They have fought hard for this amendment.

This amendment would provide $125 million in funding to the Economic Development Administration this year. It would also provide $125 million in funding this year for USDA's Community Facilities program.

Mr. President, this money is desperately needed. Although 9 months have passed since Hurricane Floyd struck North Carolina, the people of eastern Carolina are still struggling to rebuild. Thousands still live in FEMA trailers. Hundreds of businesses still haven't reopened. Several cities are still operating under sewage and water moratoria.

This amendment will mean the difference between businesses reopening and businesses closing, people working and people not working, cities thriving and cities withering. I believe this amendment will make a real difference, and will put us on the road to recovery. Let me submit a list of possible $100 million in EDA projects that has been prepared by the State. This list is by no means exhaustive, but it illustrates the extent of the need and how much this money can be used for.

I am enormously pleased that this amendment has been accepted. We have a lot more work to do in order to enact it into law. I hope this provision will be incorporated into the final supplemental appropriations package that is being negotiated as part of the Military Construction appropriations conference. The innocent victims of Hurricane Floyd deserve no less.

Indeed, the Federal Government has consistently provided this type of aid to disaster victims. I ask unanimous consent that a list of previous assistance packages be printed in the RECORD. It is only fair to treat this disaster in the same manner.

I ask unanimous consent that my remarks be printed in the RECORD following the amendment.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

EXAMPLES OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS THAT REQUESTED EDA FUNDS COULD FUND (50% MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION UNLESS WAIVED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District and county</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Total project cost</th>
<th>Project description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7—Brunswick</td>
<td>Brunswick County</td>
<td>$6,600,000</td>
<td>Construct 1.85 mgd WWTP that will immediately serve a new industry creating 300 jobs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5—Alamance</td>
<td>Craven County</td>
<td>$4,242,000</td>
<td>Water and sewer improvements to serve a new industry that will create 800 jobs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2—Orange</td>
<td>Orange County</td>
<td>$3,512,700</td>
<td>Upgrade and expand the city’s 4.08 mgd plant to 6.0 mgd. The expansion requires upgrades to more stringent effluent limits. (300 jobs).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3—Lenoir</td>
<td>Lenoir County</td>
<td>$2,080,000</td>
<td>Sewer improvements that will serve industries creating 700 jobs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1—Edgecombe</td>
<td>Edgecombe WD District No. 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td>As part of NC “Main Street” project, rehabilitate Royster-Clark Building. This project will increase utilization of downtown property; related improvements, and job creation. $300,000 for construction/renovation; $50,000 for planning and technical assistance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1—Edgecombe</td>
<td>Tarboro Area Development Corporation/NC Department of Commerce, Division of Community Assistance</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td>As part of NC “Main Street” project, rehabilitate Royster-Clark Building. This project will increase utilization of downtown properties, including mixed-use development, increase tax base in Tarboro area, including property and sales tax; create employment opportunities through an enhanced commercial district; and encourage private sector development in real estate, related improvements, and job creation. $300,000 for construction/renovation; $50,000 for planning and technical assistance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2—Nash</td>
<td>Nash County</td>
<td>$1,300,000</td>
<td>Acquire and renovate existing building to accommodate the relocation of businesses located in flood-prone areas (business incubator).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3—Lenoir</td>
<td>Grange County</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>Expansion of water and sewer capacity will support the relocation of existing businesses and residents to non-flood prone areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3—Onslow</td>
<td>Onslow County</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>Water and sewer extensions to county owned industrial park to support the relocation of commercial activities to non-flood prone areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7—Duplin</td>
<td>Duplin County/Beaufort</td>
<td>$2,500,000</td>
<td>Water improvements to serve existing industries (retaining more than 300 jobs) and the construction of a multi-tenant commercial building to serve flood-displaced businesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7—Pender</td>
<td>Pender County</td>
<td>$1,400,000</td>
<td>Berryman and drainage improvements to serve more than 600 jobs at industrial sites severely impacted by Hurricane Floyd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 and 3—Pitt</td>
<td>Pitt County</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
<td>Provide sewer pump stations and extensions to serve new ethanol facility that will create 1000 jobs—replenishing the 450 jobs lost after hurricanes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 and 3—Beaufort</td>
<td>Beaufort</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
<td>Construct industrial building for lease to flood-displaced businesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 and 3—Pitt</td>
<td>Greenville</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
<td>Water and sewer extensions to serve business and focusing relocations to non-flood prone areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 and 3—Pitt</td>
<td>Farmville</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
<td>Provide water and sewer pump station to serve US 258/US 54 interchange area to provide for the expansion of commerce and the development of subdivisions/housing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POTENTIAL EDA PROJECTS—FY 2000 SUPPLEMENTAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District and county</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Total project cost</th>
<th>Project description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1—Edgecombe</td>
<td>Tarboro</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>Water and sewer improvements in Kingsboro corridor to retain commerce and support industrial growth in non-flood prone areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1—Edgecombe</td>
<td>Pinetops</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
<td>Waste water treatment plant flooded during Hurricane Floyd. Funds would allow for expansion of commerce and cities withering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3—Lenoir</td>
<td>Lenoir County</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
<td>Increase utilization of downtown property; related improvements, and job creation. $300,000 for construction/renovation; $50,000 for planning and technical assistance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2—Nash</td>
<td>Rocky Mount</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>Upgrade and expand the city’s 4.08 mgd plant to 6.0 mgd. The expansion requires upgrades to more stringent effluent limits. (300 jobs).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4—Chatham</td>
<td>Silver City</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
<td>Water and sewer system rehabilitation to eliminate system/infrastructure adversely impacting WTP’s treatment capacity. (125).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5—Rutland</td>
<td>Town of Rutland</td>
<td>$2,537,512</td>
<td>Water, sewer and street construction to develop phase I of the Town of Rutland’s 300 acre industrial park (400 jobs).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1—Warren</td>
<td>Warren County</td>
<td>$2,943,999</td>
<td>Sanitary sewer replacement to eliminate inflow and infiltration that is reducing the WTP’s treatment capacity that will create 600 jobs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3—Wayne</td>
<td>Wayne County</td>
<td>$2,080,000</td>
<td>Replacement of a major sewer interceptor to correct inflow/infIltration resulting in WTP operating under a moratorium and 500 (400 jobs).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2—Wilson</td>
<td>Wilson County</td>
<td>$1,751,065</td>
<td>Construct industrial building for lease to flood-displaced businesses.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total               |           | $47,444,665 | |

June 21, 2000

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE
In past disasters, EDA funding, combined with Community Development Block Grants, has been a critical tool in helping towns and cities recover: Midwest Floods in 1993—$200 million for EDA plus $200 million for CDBG; Northridge Earthquake in 1994—$55 million for EDA plus more than $225 million for CDBG; Tropical Storm Alberto in 1994—$50 million for EDA plus $130 million for CDBG; Red River Valley Floods in 1997—$52 million in EDA plus $500 million for CDBG; and in the Agriculture Appropriations, there is no EDA or CDBG funding allocated for Hurricane Floyd affected states. None.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this amendment has been cleared on both sides of the aisle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to. The amendment (No. 3589) was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table. The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

SENIOR INOUYE OF HAWAII

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, there has been discussion of the great honor that the distinguished senior Senator from Hawaii earned. He actually earned it when I was a child. He earned it on the battlefield in Europe, particularly in Italy, my mother country.

I will speak further on this at a more appropriate time. But I have served with DAN INOUYE for 25 years, and only because I was managing this bill was I not with him when he received the honor today. I talked to him before I told him how enormously proud I am of him—all of his colleagues are proud of him—for the 25 years that I have served with him.

While he did not receive the honor at the time it was due—and many know why—his bravery was so well demonstrated at a time in this country when our sense of inclusion of people of all races was not as good as it is today.

But I think the feeling of veterans and the feeling of historians have vindicated his achievements throughout all of this time.

I think of one thing. I was overseas for the 50th anniversary of D-Day, and when DAN INOUYE walked onto the stage when his name was announced, veterans from all over this country cheered and applause. He was accompanied by another distinguished Member of this body who was also cheered, from the Presiding Officer’s State, Senator Dele. It was an emotional moment for all Senators who were there to see in the such loved Members of this body received that way.

Today we open a new chapter in our country—closing not a very good chapter—and we did the right thing telling everybody that DAN INOUYE earned the Congressional Medal of Honor. I yield the floor.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 3545

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, due to some confusion in the processing of cleared amendments, a mistake was made. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent to vitate action on amendment No. 3545.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators COVERDELL, KENNEDY, and I be added as cosponsors to the Dodd amendment regarding the Peace Corps.

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

ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, if the distinguished Senator from Kentucky will yield, I would like to clarify some issues regarding additional assistance to Lebanon.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I would be happy to yield to my colleague from Michigan.

Mr. ABRAHAM. As the Senator knows, I have a special interest in the provision of the bill that provides $15 million for development activities in Lebanon, including support for the American educational institutions there. I am pleased that this year that level of funding is maintained in the bill as it was reported from committee, and I wish to thank the Senator from Kentucky for his leadership and the interest that he has taken in Lebanon's future.

As you know, earmarking $15 million in economic assistance is an important beginning to a comprehensive aid package to Lebanon. However, the recent events in the South of Lebanon call for a more detailed and larger aid package to Lebanon.

A larger aid package can help the country rebuild itself, from the devastation of the past 30 years. Specifically, Lebanon needs the financial assistance to: rebuild its schools; repair and rebuild its sewage systems; upgrade its water purification facilities; and construct general infrastructure projects. In my opinion, a package similar to the recent Jordanian package of $250 million would provide the type of support needed to effectively launch the rebuilding effort. Unfortunately, it appears that the Administration is not currently prepared to present a comprehensive aid package. Several inquiries of the Administration have produced no budgetary figures. This is disappointing in that your legislation is clearly the appropriate vehicles in which to include this funding. Notwithstanding their reluctance, I would like to offer my amendment to increase Lebanon’s funding to $250 million.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Thank you, Senator ABRAHAM.

I, like you, am dismayed to learn that the Administration has not offered any budgetary amounts for an aid package to Lebanon. You are absolutely right that the current events in Lebanon demand that we reexamine our foreign aid package to that country.

As such, I pledge to work with you every step of the way to see that a