CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE 17741

September 24, 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1438, which the clerk will report by title.

Assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1438) to authorize appropriations for the Department of Defense, for military construction for the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection to the reading of the bill by title?

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, we have just reached an amendment offered by the Senator from Kentucky, I offer an amendment on behalf of Senator Bingaman.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection to the reading of the amendment?

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, we have to clear that, I wonder if we could withhold that for a moment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection to the reading of the amendment?

Mr. SESSIONS. I would like to have a unanimous consent agreement, but we will propound that agreement in the next few minutes to set a time for those who want to offer amendments.

Mr. WARNER. We are endeavoring to do that on our side. A number of Senators have just returned to Washington. They need just a bit of time to assess this situation. I know there is a strong spirit of cooperation on this side to move forward with the bill and complete it by Wednesday evening after noon. In order to do that, we have to have this type of working document from which to chart our course, night and day, between now and Wednesday afternoon, and recognize that we have to set aside time for the CR when it comes.

Mr. LEVIN. I wonder if it is agreeable with my friend from Virginia we seek to complete action on this bill by tomorrow night. That is the goal. I take it the Senator would agree with that goal?

Mr. WARNER. I agree.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection to the reading of the amendment?

Mr. DOMENICI. Of course. And I ask Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, if we could withhold that for a moment.

Mr. DOMENICI. Sure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. President, if we could recognize Senator Reed, who is waiting to make an opening statement, and while he is giving that statement, we will try to line up the order of amendments. Is that agreeable?

Mr. WARNER. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection to the reading of the amendment?

Mr. SESSIONS. I would like to have a chance for opening comments, perhaps 10 minutes for that, whenever it is appropriate.

Mr. LEVIN. I ask that the Chair recognize Senator Reed, then Senator Sessions, and at that point, after opening statements, we hope to have at least one or two amendments lined up in terms of order of recognition.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection to the request of the Senator from Michigan regarding the order of speakers?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I thank the Senators from Michigan and Virginia for this great opportunity to speak this afternoon but also for their work as chairmen and ranking member of this committee. I thank Chairman Levin and Senator Warner for their leadership.

I only this afternoon in support of this authorization bill for the Department of Defense for the year 2002. It comes at a critical time in history where we have to prepare for a series of threats, both anticipated before September 11 and now understood very well after September 11.

I also speak specifically with respect to my responsibility as chairman of the Strategic Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee. In that regard, I first thank and commend Senator Warner, Allard of Colorado, the ranking member. Senator Allard did a tremendous amount of work, and his perseverance, diligence, his good humor, and his cooperation were essential to the legislation we are contemplating and considering today. He has truly done a remarkable job. It was a distinct pleasure and honor working with him. I thank him for his activities.

The jurisdiction of the Strategic Subcommittee has a very wide swath, including space and space systems, strategic programs, intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance programs, ballistic missile defense programs, and Defense-funded programs at the Department of Energy.

The Strategic Subcommittee held hearings on all of the matters of jurisdiction, including reports of the Space Commission and the National Reconnaissance Organization Commission. We had extensive hearings, particularly on the ballistic missile defense program. We held a three-day hearing on their plans and programs for this year. We also had a very useful and instructive hearing on the status of our long-range bomber force. Even though we had a compressed timeframe to consider these issues because of the late submission of the budget, the Strategic Subcommittee conducted extensive hearings.

The result is the legislation we have before the Senate, a product of these hearings, and of hard work, particularly by the staff, and commend and compliment the staff for their intense effort and their thorough analysis of the requests made to the committee.

Based upon these hearings and this extensive analysis, we were able to identify many critical authorizations for programs. In providing additional funds for these programs, we were guided by the recommendations of the military services themselves. We were very attentive to the unfunded requirements outlined and identified by the Departments of the Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, their so-called