

parents, the thrill of going through this building, through the Smithsonian and the Library of Congress, because they were open to the American people, as they should be now. I have to think there are a whole lot of parents and their children who can't do that. I am on the Board of Regents at the Smithsonian, and I see that the number of visitors is going way down. That is free to everybody.

It should not be that way. This is one of the most beautiful cities in the world, one of the best cities in the world. The people are among the best people anywhere. Washington should be a magnet not only for Americans throughout the country but visitors throughout the world. I want us back here. I have my staff squeezed into cubbyholes and my Capitol office and working out of their homes. We are all connected to the Internet and everything else. We are going to work throughout this weekend. We are going to get the terrorism bill finished, with the bioterrorism piece that I added here in the Senate and the Senators passed.

All that is going to be done this weekend because very brave men and women, on my staff and others, are going to work straight through the weekend, but they are going to take 20 hours to do what they might do in 10 hours on other days because of all the disruptions.

We have to set the example that the Senate is open and ready for business. We cannot ask some 18-year-old on duty in our armed services in Kosovo to stand sentry duty in the middle of the night next to a minefield and say: But U.S. Senators are not here.

The distinguished Presiding Officer has been a Governor, and he is a Senator. He is here. I see my good friend from California who was mayor of San Francisco and stood there at a most difficult time. We are ready to go to work. We will go to work, and the Senate will continue to be the conscience of the Nation.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002—CONFERENCE REPORT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2904, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the

amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2904) "making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes," having met have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate, and agree to the same with an amendment, and the Senate agree to the same, signed by all of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of October 16, 2001.)

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be 30 minutes for debate to be equally divided and controlled between the Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and the Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON, or their designees.

Who yields time?

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, as my distinguished chairman, the Senator from California, is preparing to speak about the conference report accompanying the military construction appropriations bill, I want to make a few comments about what is going on today.

I am very pleased to say the Senate is open for business, and we are preparing to take up very important legislation as it relates to the U.S. war on terrorism. Before we talk about that, I want to say that what we are doing is important as an example to our country. We have had severe threats to the people who work in the U.S. Capitol. The Capitol is the symbol of freedom and democracy for the whole world. It represents the United States.

Our people made the decision that we would close the office buildings so our staff would be protected. We are checking the office buildings to see what kind of anthrax might be present. We are doing the prudent thing. We are trying to take care of our people.

On the other hand, we are also keeping the Capitol open as the symbol that the business of Government is going on, and many of us are working out of our Capitol offices. We have our staffs with us. They are very happy to be here. There is a spirit of comradeship up and down the halls of the Capitol where people are spilling out from the various small offices to make room in the tiny little offices from where we

are now operating. But everybody is happy to do it because we know this is important for our country. It is our way of saying to those who are in the field representing us in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Uzbekistan that we are here, too, and we are taking care of your needs.

I am very proud we are in session. Our staffs are happy to be here, and we are doing our duty for our country. The people of America should know we are going to do everything that is on our agenda for this week—business as usual—and the House did the same thing. They passed the bills yesterday. We passed them yesterday, and we will pass them today.

With that, I welcome the chairman of the Military Construction Subcommittee and thank her in advance for the leadership she has provided to this very important committee.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Texas for her comments.

Today I am very pleased to bring before the Senate the conference agreement on the fiscal year 2002 military construction appropriations bill.

Given the circumstances, this is a particularly timely and time-sensitive conference report. I am very pleased that the Senate has demonstrated a willingness to move quickly on it.

The military construction conference agreement provides \$10.5 billion of new budget authority. That is a 17.5-percent increase over last year's military construction funding, and it is a 5.3-percent increase over the President's budget request. This statistic alone sends a strong message of support to America's men and women in uniform.

This is a good package. It meets the most pressing needs of the military, both in terms of readiness and quality-of-life issues. It is not, of course, a perfect package. The conference report does not include everything the Senate wanted, nor does it include everything the House wanted. It does, however, address the priorities of the Department of Defense, which I think is most important, as well as both Houses of Congress. It is a carefully crafted compromise. It is both balanced and bipartisan.

I am particularly pleased to see such quick action on this measure at a time when we as a nation are asking for so much from our men and women in uniform and from their families. The conference agreement provides \$4.8 billion for the Active components of the military. That is a 35-percent increase over fiscal year 2001. So the military components are up 35.8 percent. It provides \$953 million for the Reserve components. That is a 357-percent increase over last year. For family housing, the conference agreement provides \$4.1 billion. That is a 12-percent increase over last year.