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WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1998

No. 113

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9, 1998, at 12 noon.

Senate

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1998

(Legislative day of Monday, August 31, 1998)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, gracious Father, our Refuge and our Strength, our very present Help in times of trouble, we respond to Your call to pray. You are the Instigator of prayer because You have created us to know, love, and serve You. We respond with wonder that You would use us to get Your work done this day. Forgive us when we try to accomplish what we falsely think is our work, done for our own glory. Create in us hearts fit to be filled with Your presence, open minds ready to think Your thoughts, and responsive wills desiring Your will for our Nation. Go before us to show the way. Help the Senators to live expectantly, knowing that You will provide serendipities, wonderful surprises of Your grace and goodness in pressures and problems. You are in charge, Father; this is Your Nation. We commit ourselves to enjoy the privilege of working for You today. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, this morning, the Senate will immediately proceed to a vote on adoption of the conference report to accompany the military construction appropriations bill. Following that vote, the Senate will begin consideration of S. 2334, the foreign operations appropriations bill. Members are encouraged to offer and debate amendments to the foreign operations bill during today's session so that substantial progress can be made on this important legislation.

As a reminder to all Members, a consent agreement has been reached with respect to the Texas low-level waste compact conference report. That legislation, along with any other legislative or executive items cleared for action, may also be considered during today's session.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

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

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUTCHINSON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now consider the report of the committee of conference on the bill (H.R. 4059) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of July 24, 1998.)

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I am very pleased to bring before the Senate the military construction conference report for fiscal year 1999.

This conference report was adopted by the House of Representatives by a vote of 417 to 1. It was sent to the Senate and now waits our final passage.

We have worked hard with our House colleagues to bring the military construction conference to a successful conclusion. Both bodies took a different perspective on the allocation of military construction funding for the Department of Defense. In the final conference report, we met our goals of promoting quality of life initiatives and enhancing mission readiness.

This bill has some points I want to highlight. It provides a total of \$8.4 billion for military construction. Even

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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though this is an increase of \$665 million over the President's budget for fiscal year 1998, it is still a reduction of \$759 million from what was appropriated last year—an overall reduction of 8.8 percent.

Some 42 percent of the bill is allocated to family housing—a total of \$3.5 billion. This includes new construction, improvements to existing units and funding for operation and maintenance of that housing.

The base realignment and closure part of the bill account for 19 percent of our total funding—about \$1.6 billion. This encompasses funding for environmental clean-up of the closing bases and construction of new BRAC-related facilities.

I continue to be concerned about the growing costs of environmental clean-up at our BRAC installations. These costs frequently continue long after we have closed these bases.

We strongly protected quality of life initiatives. We provided \$716 million for barracks, \$34 million for child development centers and \$184 million for hospital and medical facilities.

We provided a total of \$480 million for the Guard and Reserve components. Overall, this represents an increase of \$300 million from the President's budget request. Many of those projects will enhance the readiness and mission capabilities of our Reserve and Guard forces, vital to our national defense.

I thank my ranking member, Senator MURRAY, for her assistance and support throughout this process. She and her staff were extremely cooperative.

I commend this product to the Senate and recommend that it be signed by the President without delay.

It is nice to see everybody back from vacation and the August break. I think most of us had time to travel around our States and talk with our folks at home and to bring back maybe some new ideas. I remind this body that for the first time in the history of this country, better than 50 percent of our military forces are found in our National Guard and our Reserves. If we continue to trend that way, then the infrastructure that it will take for those folks to be properly trained—and let's face it, those who serve in the Guard and the Reserves are as dedicated men and women to the national security of this country as anybody else, but they will need the infrastructure in which to operate.

This administration did not really fully fund our infrastructure for our Guard and our Reserves, but this Congress did. I congratulate this Congress for doing so, because it becomes more and more important every day that these dedicated Americans who wish to serve their country as citizens, soldiers, airmen, marines, and sailors have the infrastructure in which to keep them trained and to keep their dedication and their morale as high as we can possibly make it.

I heartily recommend this conference report.

(At the request of Mr. BURNS, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD:)

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, the pending military construction appropriations conference report provides \$8.5 billion in new budget authority and \$2.6 billion in new outlays for military construction and family housing programs for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 1999.

When outlays from prior-year budget authority and other actions are considered, the outlays for the 1999 program total \$9.2 billion.

Compared to 1998 appropriations, this bill is \$446 million lower in budget authority, and it is \$412 million lower in outlays.

This legislation provides for construction by the Department of Defense for U.S. military facilities throughout the world, and it provides for family housing for the active forces of each of the U.S. military services. Accordingly, it provides for important readiness and quality of life programs for our service men and women.

The bill is within the revised section 302(b) allocation for the Military Construction Subcommittee. I commend the distinguished subcommittee chairman, the Senator from Montana, for bringing this bill to the floor within the subcommittee's allocation.

Earlier, because CBO had not adjusted its baseline, prior year military construction outlays had not been revised to reflect Congress' override of President Clinton's line-item veto of 37 fiscal year 1998 projects. This adjustment would have revised prior year outlays upward by \$112 million. This \$112 million has now been added back to the CBO baseline and CBO's scoring of this legislation. Accordingly, this conference report contains no scorekeeping adjustments.

I urge the adoption of the conference report.

Mr. President, I ask that a table showing the relationship of the bill to the subcommittee's section 302(b) allocation be printed in the RECORD.

The table follows:

H.R. 4059, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS,
1999 SPENDING TOTALS—CONFERENCE REPORT
(Fiscal year 1999, in millions of dollars)

Category	De- fense	Non- de- fense	Crime	Man- datory	Total
Conference report:					
Budget authority	8,450				8,450
Outlays	9,185				9,185
Section 302(b) allocation:					
Budget authority	8,450				8,450
Outlays	9,185				9,185
1998 level:					
Budget authority	8,896				8,896
Outlays	9,597				9,597
President's request:					
Budget authority	7,784				7,784
Outlays	9,059				9,059
House-passed bill:					
Budget authority	8,234				8,234
Outlays	9,087				9,087
Senate-passed bill:					
Budget authority	8,481				8,481
Outlays	9,120				9,120
CONFERENCE REPORT COMPARED TO:					
Section 302(b) allocation:					
Budget authority					

H.R. 4059, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS,
1999 SPENDING TOTALS—CONFERENCE REPORT—
Continued

(Fiscal year 1999, in millions of dollars)

Category	De- fense	Non- de- fense	Crime	Man- datory	Total
Outlays					
1998 level:					
Budget authority	—446				—446
Outlays	—412				—412
President's request:					
Budget authority	666				666
Outlays	126				126
House-passed bill:					
Budget authority	216				216
Outlays	98				98
Senate-passed bill:					
Budget authority	—31				—31
Outlays	65				65

Note.—Details may not add to totals due to rounding. Totals adjusted for consistency with current scorekeeping conventions.♦

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my chairman, Senator BURNS, in bringing to the Senate our conference report on the 1999 military construction appropriation bill.

Favorable action in the Senate today will send this conference report to the President, making it the first of the regular 1999 appropriations bills to be passed by Congress. This is a noteworthy accomplishment, and I hope it will set the stage for swift action on the remaining appropriations bills.

We had to make some very tough choices on this bill. Our conference agreement totals \$8.4 billion. This is \$760 million less than what was appropriated last year. Given the tight budget confines in which we were operating, there were many worthy projects that we could not fund. Not one Senator or one State was exempt from this belt-tightening—not Senator BURNS, not me, and not our leadership. Nevertheless, we held ourselves to a high standard of fairness and equity, and our conference report reflects that effort. This report satisfies to the best of our ability the national and international priorities of our military services as well as the regional priorities that our colleagues conveyed to us. Most important, it provides funding for scores of needed projects throughout the United States and overseas that will support America's military personnel, both active and reserve, as they carry out their mission to defend and protect our Nation.

The State of our Nation's military readiness continues to be a pressing concern. Although we often equate readiness with equipment or troop strength, it is important to remember that basic military construction—troop barracks, family housing, vehicle maintenance centers, and the like—is at the core of military readiness. This bill is the vehicle through which we provide the basic, essential infrastructure necessary to support our troops and advance military readiness.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this conference report and speed it to the President for his signature. This is the product of a smooth, fair, and bipartisan process. I commend Chairman BURNS for his swift and skillful handling of this bill. I commend his staff,

Sid Ashworth, and my staff, Ben McMakin, Christina Evans, and Emelie East, for their diligence and thoroughness in preparing this bill for our consideration. It is a good bill, and I hope that all of my colleagues will be able to join me in supporting its passage.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I stand before the Senate today to express my deep disappointment over the egregious number of low-priority, Congressionally earmarked military construction projects that are contained in the conference report on the Fiscal Year 1999 Military Construction Appropriations Bill.

I am dismayed that, at a time when our nation's military is perilously close to becoming a "hollow force"—due in great part to a decade of declining defense budgets and increased commitments—members of both bodies have once again directed precious funds away from the services' readiness and modernization needs toward their own parochial interests. I am dismayed, but given the long tradition of egregious member adds, I am not surprised.

This year's Military Construction Appropriations Bill was crafted under the additional stricture of the Balanced Budget Agreement of 1997. The agreement established firm funding limits to the National Defense budget. With these constraints in place, one would think that it would be difficult

for members to even consider adding projects of questionable merit. Sadly, the sheer volume of unrequested, low-priority projects present in this bill—142 domestic projects in all, at a cost of some \$977 million—betrays an attitude of "business as usual" by the members of Congress.

I was encouraged by the fact that there were no new projects added by the conferees as they crafted this compromise legislation. That display of discipline is laudable. However, it pales in comparison to the gross misuse of critical defense dollars to fund members' pet military construction projects.

Recently the Navy announced that its pilot retention rate is at its lowest point since aviation continuation pay was instituted more than a decade ago. The Air Force is currently retaining only 28 percent of its pilots. The pay of service members lags an embarrassing 14 percent behind the civilian sector. We are deploying some of our forces to combat zones that are not meeting established readiness standards. Cannibalization rates are increasing. Mission capable rates are dropping. Nearly 12,000 personnel are eligible for food stamps. The number and scope of training exercises have been curtailed as a result of insufficient funding, resources and manpower. The list indicating the decaying readiness of our armed forces goes on and on. Unfortunately, the con-

gressional response to these critical deficiencies has not been ideal.

In this bill alone, there are 45 additional, unrequested Guard and Reserve projects; five control towers at Air Force bases that currently have operational control towers; twelve child development or physical fitness centers; an \$8.3 million fence for Fort Bragg; and many more projects of questionable merit—nearly \$700 million worth.

The fact remains that funds for our national defense are limited. We have a duty to ensure our men and women in uniform are ready to fight and win wars decisively, expeditiously, and with minimum loss of life. Robbing from readiness to pay for unadulterated, member sponsored military construction projects does not contribute to that end.

Mr. President, I look forward to the day when the Military Construction Bill will be devoid of low-priority, member-requested pork. I urge my colleagues to exercise the restraint required to make that day a reality. Now, more than ever, the security of our nation depends upon it.

I ask unanimous consent that a list of questionable adds be printed in the RECORD.

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

QUESTIONABLE ADDS IN THE FY 1999 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE REPORT

State	Base	Facility	Cost in thousands
Alabama	Fort Rucker	Simulation center	\$10,000
Alabama	Fort Rucker	Fire station	4,300
Alabama	Redstone Arsenal	Airfield operations center	1,550
Alabama	Montgomery	Office	6,000
Alaska	Fort Wainwright	Barracks renewal	16,000
Alaska	Fort Richardson	Improve family housing (40 units)	7,400
Alaska	Fort Wainwright	Vehicle wash facility	3,100
Alaska	Kulis ANG Base	Vehicle maintenance and fire station	10,400
Arizona	Luke AFB	Control tower	3,400
Arizona	Tucson Airport	Support complex	7,500
Arkansas	Little Rock AFB	Upgrade sewage plant	1,500
Arkansas	Pine Bluff Arsenal	Ammunition demilitarization facility Phase III	16,500
Arkansas	Benton ARNG	Readiness center	1,988
California	Travis AFB	New control tower	4,250
California	Fort Irwin	Child development center	5,100
California	Fort Irwin	Education center	2,700
California	Camp Pendleton	Improve family housing (171 units)	10,000
California	Camp Pendleton	Fitness center	5,010
California	Camp Pendleton	Helicopter outlying field	7,180
California	NAWC China Lake	Live fire complex	6,900
Colorado	Fort Carson	Railyard expansion	23,000
Connecticut	Naval Sub Base, New London	Waterfront recapitalization	11,330
Delaware	Dagsboro	Readiness center	3,609
Florida	NAS Jacksonville	Add/alter building #118	1,500
Florida	Mayport Naval Station	Afloat training group facility	3,163
Florida	Mayport Naval Station	Wharf electrical improvements	3,000
Florida	McDill AFB	Dining facility	4,800
Florida	Tyndall AFB	Control tower	3,600
Florida	Eglin AFB	Assault strip runway	5,100
Florida	Homestead AFB	Dormitory	4,600
Florida	NAS Whiting Field	8 helicopter pads	1,400
Georgia	Moody AFB	Improve family housing (68 units)	5,220
Georgia	Albany Marine Base	Child development center	2,300
Georgia	NAS Atlanta	Hangar addition	4,100
Georgia	Sub Base Kings Bay	Degaussing facility	2,550
Hawaii	Schofield Barracks	Land purchase	23,500
Hawaii	Marine Corps Base, Hawaii	BEQ	15,000
Hawaii	Hickam AFB	Replacement civil engineering facility	5,100
Idaho	Mountain Home	Munitions storage facility	4,100
Idaho	Mountain Home	Munitions storage igloo	1,500
Illinois	NTC Great Lakes	Small arms range	6,790
Indiana	Hulman Regional Airport	Corrosion control facility	6,000
Indiana	NSWC Crane	Airborne electronic warfare center	11,110
Iowa	Sioux Gateway Airport	Add/alter aircraft corrosion control facility	6,500
Iowa	Des Moines	Police operations building	4,000
Kansas	Fort Riley	Barracks complex renewal	16,500
Kansas	McConnell AFB	Add/alter avionics shop	5,900
Kansas	McConnell AFB	Water storage and pumping facility	4,450
Kansas	Forbes Field	Hangar upgrade	9,800
Kentucky	Fort Knox	Multi-purpose digital training range	7,000
Kentucky	Fort Campbell	Improve family housing (104 units)	8,800
Kentucky	Fort Campbell	Barracks complex renewal	7,000
Kentucky	Standiford Field, Louisville	Replace composite aerial port	4,100
Louisiana	Barksdale AFB	Physical fitness center	9,300
Louisiana	NAS New Orleans	BEQ	9,520

QUESTIONABLE ADDS IN THE FY 1999 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE REPORT—Continued

State	Base	Facility	Cost in thousands
Louisiana	NAS New Orleans	Galley addition	1,730
Louisiana	NAS New Orleans	Renovate hangar #4	5,200
Louisiana	Fort Polk	Rail loading facility	8,300
Maryland	Fort Mead	Emergency services center	5,300
Maryland	US Naval Academy	Demolish towers	4,300
Maryland	NSWC Indian Head	Scale up facility	6,590
Massachusetts	Hanscom AFB	Renovate management facility	10,000
Massachusetts	Barnes ANGB	Army aviation support facility	9,274
Michigan	Alpena County Regional Airport	Fire Station	5,100
Michigan	Selfridge ANG Base	Upgrade buildings	9,800
Minnesota	Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport	Consolidated lodging facility	3,236
Mississippi	Brookhaven	Guard training center	5,247
Mississippi	Columbus AFB	52 units of family housing	6,800
Mississippi	Columbus AFB	BOQ	5,700
Mississippi	Meridian	Air operations facility	3,280
Mississippi	Keesler AFB	Replace 52 units of family housing	6,800
Mississippi	Stennis Space Center	Operations support facility	5,500
Missouri	Fort Leonard Wood	Barracks	23,000
Missouri	Rosecrans Memorial Airport	Upgrade parking aircraft apron	9,600
Montana	Helena	Reserve center	21,690
Montana	Malstrom AFB	Replace housing (50 units)	10,000
Montana	Malstrom AFB	New dormitory	7,900
Nebraska	Lincoln Municipal Airport	Medical training facility	3,350
Nevada	Nellis AFB	28 units of family housing	5,000
Nevada	Carson City	Readiness center	5,860
New Jersey	Fort Dix	Ammunitions supply point	8,731
New Jersey	Fort Monmouth	Software engineering center addition	7,600
New Jersey	Picatinny Arsenal	Munitions facility	8,400
New Mexico	Taos	Readiness center	3,300
New Mexico	Holloman AFB	Fitness center	11,100
New Mexico	Kirtland AFB	Repair weapon integrity building	6,800
New Mexico	White Sands Missile Range	Improve family housing	3,650
New York	Fort Drum	All weather weapons training facility	4,650
New York	Fort Drum	Aerial gunnery range Phase II	9,000
New York	Syracuse ANG	Upgrade parking apron	9,500
New York	Niagara Falls	Maintenance facility	3,900
North Carolina	Fort Bragg	Fences	8,300
North Carolina	Seymour Johnson AFB	Library	6,100
North Carolina	Seymour Johnson AFB	Improve family housing (70 units)	8,000
North Carolina	Fort Bragg	Barracks upgrade	10,600
North Dakota	Minot AFB	Taxiway repair	8,500
North Dakota	Grand Forks	Add to physical fitness center	8,800
North Dakota	Hector Field	Addition to base supply facility	3,650
Ohio	Springfield-Beckly Airport	Civil engineering facility	5,000
Ohio	Wright-Patterson AFB	C-141 simulation facility	1,600
Oklahoma	Tinker AFB	Operations and mobility center	10,800
Oklahoma	Vance AFB	Physical fitness center	4,400
Oklahoma	Altus AFB	Ramp and airfield lighting	5,300
Oklahoma	Altus AFB	Control tower	4,000
Pennsylvania	NAVICP Mechanicsburg	Child development center	1,600
Pennsylvania	NAVICP Philadelphia	Child development center	1,550
Pennsylvania	NSWC Philadelphia	Integrated Ship Control and Diagnostic facility	2,410
Pennsylvania	ARNG Latrobe	Readiness center	2,479
Pennsylvania	US Army Research Center	Regimental support facility	19,512
South Carolina	Charleston AFB	Housing improvements	9,110
South Carolina	MCRD Parris Island	Female recruit barracks	8,030
South Carolina	McEntire ANG Station	Aircraft maintenance complex	9,000
South Carolina	Spartanburg	Readiness center	5,260
South Dakota	Ellsworth AFB	Operations facility	6,500
South Dakota	Joe Foss Field	Maintenance and Ground Equipment Facility	5,200
Tennessee	Arnold AFB	Test facilities cooling tower	11,600
Tennessee	McChes-Tyson, ANG Base	Relocate aircraft parking apron	10,000
Texas	Fort Bliss	Overpass	4,100
Texas	Dyess AFB	B-1B munitions maintenance facility	3,350
Texas	Dyess AFB	Support equipment shop	1,400
Texas	NAVSTA Ingleside	BEQ Phase IV	12,200
Texas	Laughlin AFB	Base operations facility	3,815
Texas	Laughlin AFB	Control tower	3,500
Texas	Fort Sam Houston	Dining Facility	5,500
Texas	Goodfellow AFB	Student dormitory	7,300
Texas	Sheppard AFB	Family Housing	7,000
Utah	Hill AFB	Reserve asset warehouse	2,600
Utah	Hill AFB	Munitions handling and storage facility	1,900
Vermont	Burlington	Supply complex	5,500
Virginia	Fort Meyer	Barracks renovation	6,200
Virginia	NSWC, Dahlgren	Warfare Defenses Technical facility	10,550
Virginia	NAS Oceana	Fitness center	6,400
Virginia	Fort Lee	80 units of family housing	13,000
Virginia	Fort Eustis	Physical fitness center	4,650
Washington	Fort Lawton	Army Reserve facility	10,713
Washington	Bremerton Naval Shipyard	Community support facility	4,300
Washington	McChord AFB	Medical training facility	3,400
Washington	Fairchild AFB	Convert dock to washrack facility	3,700
Washington	Fairchild AFB	Training support complex	3,900
Washington	Whidbey Island NAS	Improve family housing	5,800
West Virginia	Camp Dawson	Regional Training Institute	13,595
Wyoming	Camp Guernsey	Combined support maintenance shop	13,891
Total			976,773

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I want to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Military Construction Subcommittee for their work on this Conference Report. Their efforts are vitally important to this nation's armed forces and the national defense.

This Conference Report will benefit military bases and military personnel in Connecticut. The Naval Submarine Base in New London, the planned Army Reserve center in West Hartford, and

the National Guard Training Center in Niantic each have projects that will be funded when this report becomes law. The total to be spent on these projects will be approximately \$14 million.

The Conference Report funds badly needed pier upgrades at the New London Naval Submarine Base. The piers at the base were originally designed to support SSN 637-class submarines, half of which have been decommissioned. The requirements of contemporary sub-

marines have overwhelmed these piers. Power outages on the piers occur, on average, 80 times per year, and the cranes that resupply the submarines outweigh the piers' design capacity. This project affects military readiness, quality of life and the safety of our personnel.

The report also includes \$1.49 million to take the first step to replace an overwhelmed Army Reserve Center building and free the government of a

\$100,000 per month lease. Moreover, these funds will begin a much needed expansion that will enhance the training and readiness of eight Army Reserve units.

Finally, the report will fund the planning and design of a new National Guard training center in Niantic, Connecticut. The present facility consists of World War II vintage, temporary wooden structures. They do not meet Army standards for classrooms, dining, or billeting. The National Guard, however, relies on this training center to serve troops from six Northeastern states. Troops of all ranks train at the center, and the Army and the Army Reserve use the center as well. The funding of the planning and design of the new center is a welcome sign to thousands of servicemembers, for it signals a strong commitment from the federal government to the National Guard.

One Connecticut project would have replaced an Air National Guard complex in Orange. The poor condition of the present facility severely hinders the 103rd Air Control Squadron from accomplishing its mission, and the structure suffers from a variety of building code violations. I thank my colleagues on the Military Construction Subcommittee for including this project in the Senate bill. The project was not funded in conference, but I still appreciate the support of Chairman BURNS and Senator MURRAY, and I look forward to working with them next year to fund this project in Fiscal Year 2000.

So, I praise the Conference Committee for their work on this report. They have made some tough choices—this report allocates \$759 million less than last year. But they have made those choices with the best interests of the U.S. armed forces in mind.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the conference report accompanying the military construction appropriations bill. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), the Senator from Texas (Mr. GRAMM), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

I also announce that the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) is absent because of illness.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) would each vote "yea."

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. GLENN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) would vote "aye."

The result was announced—yeas 87, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 253 Leg.]

YEAS—87

Abraham	Enzi	Lott
Akaka	Faircloth	Lugar
Allard	Feingold	Mack
Ashcroft	Feinstein	McConnell
Baucus	Ford	Mikulski
Bennett	Frist	Moseley-Braun
Biden	Gorton	Moynihan
Bond	Graham	Murray
Boxer	Grams	Nickles
Breaux	Grassley	Reed
Brownback	Gregg	Reid
Bryan	Hagel	Roberts
Bumpers	Harkin	Rockefeller
Burns	Hatch	Roth
Byrd	Hutchinson	Santorum
Campbell	Hutchison	Sarbanes
Chafee	Inhofe	Sessions
Cleland	Jeffords	Shelby
Coats	Johnson	Smith (NH)
Cochran	Kempthorne	Smith (OR)
Collins	Kennedy	Snowe
Conrad	Kerrey	Specter
Craig	Kerry	Stevens
D'Amato	Kohl	Thomas
Daschle	Landrieu	Thompson
DeWine	Lautenberg	Thurmond
Dodd	Leahy	Torricelli
Dorgan	Levin	Wellstone
Durbin	Lieberman	Wyden

NAYS—3

Kyl	McCain	Robb
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NOT VOTING—10

Bingaman	Gramm	Murkowski
Coverdell	Helms	Warner
Domenici	Hollings	
Glenn	Inouye	

The conference report was agreed to.

TRAVEL BY SENATOR JOHN WARNER FOR THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this is to advise the Senate that Virginia's senior Senator, JOHN WARNER, is unable to make votes today because of work he is undertaking for the Senate Armed Services Committee. As second senior member of the committee, Senator WARNER has met with senior U.S. military officials and government representatives in Bosnia, Serbia, and Macedonia. Senator WARNER traveled to Sarajevo, Belgrade, Skopje, and Pristina in Kosovo. His travel and briefings included field visits as well.

Senator WARNER is compiling a firsthand assessment for the Armed Services Committee of the military and political situation in this troubled and war-torn region of the world. He is scheduled to return later today.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to S. 2334, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2334) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BOND addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUTCHINSON). The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I thank the Chair. I thank the manager of the bill. I wanted to take just a moment to describe a provision that we have offered which the managers have indicated that they will accept.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If the Senator will withhold, the Senator cannot be heard. May we have order in the Chamber, please. The Senate will please come to order. Please take your conversations to the Cloakroom.

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, as I indicated, we have talked with the manager and the ranking member of the measure about a provision that I have offered with respect to the development of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. I thank them for their willingness to accept it.

I wanted to tell my colleagues very briefly what it is, because this is an issue of such great importance today.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, may we have order. I see at least eight conversations going on in the Senate. The Senator is entitled to be heard. I hope we will be able to hear him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will Senators please take their conversations to the Cloakroom.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, the conversations have not yet been ended. May we have order in the Senate. Mr. President, I hope Senators will pay attention to the Chair and show some respect for the Chair as well as the Senator who seeks to address the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I thank the Senator from West Virginia.

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I thank my distinguished friend, the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee. I remember well the days when I came back from summer vacation, and for the first days of school it was a little difficult to focus attention. It is good to see colleagues again. I appreciate very much the effort so that we can discuss what unfortunately has become a very serious problem.

Mr. President, in light of the continued proliferation issues which surround the world and the Middle East in particular, I believe that now, more than ever, it is important for the United States to maintain its vigilance with