

never have a better location for a strategic airbase than Malmstrom, which is both invulnerable to naval attack and as close as a continental airbase can be to Eurasia.

Second, Malmstrom is ideal for peacetime operations. The Great Falls area is perfect for Air Force training missions, because they do not call Montana the Big Sky State for nothing.

The airspace around Malmstrom is wide open. Visibility is excellent. There are no big mountains or even buildings for that matter nearby. And the weather is almost always sunny and dry. In fact, Malmstrom has the best flying weather in the area, and is already an alternative landing site for the other bases in the region. And, as the prairie is thinly populated, there are very few big metropolitan areas where frequent training missions could annoy local residents.

Third, Malmstrom will remain an ideal location for the foreseeable future. The Cascade County and Great Falls municipal governments work closely with base commanders to keep plenty of open ground between Malmstrom and the town.

Because we are a thinly populated State, the Air Force can be confident that even if there is substantial local growth, no property developer will build right up to the wire.

So disruption to the local community will always be minimal. Complaints by local citizens will be few or nonexistent. And, perhaps most important, the open ground ensures that base security will always be protected much more effectively than it could be in a heavily urban area like MacDill.

Finally, of course, Malmstrom has top-quality facilities for flying.

It has an airstrip good enough to support 10,000 Lend-Lease flights. And it has first-class maintenance capability to protect today's high-performance aircraft. In fact, Malmstrom is the only airbase in the Pacific Northwest with an anticorrosion facility.

Mr. President, we are very confident, that a careful, unbiased review will show that Malmstrom Air Force Base is an unequalled national security resource. Its strategic location, excellent flying and maintenance facilities, and multiple-mission capability make it a perfect site for this tanker squadron.

So Great Falls welcomes Commissioners Cox, Davis and Kling to the community. They can expect a warm, hospitable Montana reception. And we look forward to the chance to make our case this weekend.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REGULATORY TRANSITION ACT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on the HARKIN amendment numbered 411 occur today at 2:15.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. 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. LEAHY. Mr. President, what is the parliamentary situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending amendment is the Harkin amendment to the Nickles amendment to the substitute.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am presently asking recognition, and I will speak briefly and ask permission to be able to do that as in morning business.

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

A CALAMITY IN AFRICA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have listened to the recent proposals of several Republican Senators for deep cuts in our foreign assistance program. Some of these proposals do not mention cuts specifically, but that is the thinly veiled consequence of what they propose. We pride ourselves for our generosity, but our foreign assistance accounts for less than 1 percent of the total Federal budget. These proposals would cut that even further, with the deepest cuts in the funds that go to help the neediest people in the world.

I will speak at length on this subject in the coming weeks, but I wanted to talk briefly about what are talking about if these proposals gain support.

At the same time that Republicans are pushing for drastic reductions in aid to needy American children and families, they would have us turn our backs on people around the world who are even more desperate. Let me mention one example, that was described in the Washington Post on March 17.

Uganda, once a prosperous, peaceful country, was destroyed by Idi Amin in the 1970's. Today, the average yearly income is \$170 per person, and as Uganda struggles to rebuild from civil war it is being destroyed from within again. One of every fifteen Ugandans is HIV positive. Half a million Ugandan children have lost a parent to AIDS. By 1998, 10,000 Ugandan children will have died from AIDS, and another 300,000 children will be infected.

In towns like Kakuuto with 70,000 residents, 30 percent of the people are either infected with HIV or already suf-

fering from AIDS. There are 17,000 orphans in that town alone.

The article describes a typical girl who became the head of her family at the age of 13, when her mother died from AIDS. AIDS had already killed her father. She now cares for her four younger brothers and sisters.

In 1990 I went to Uganda, and I saw the devastation caused by AIDS. I saw the heroic efforts of people there, everyday people, trying to fight the epidemic, a battle they could not possibly win without the help of countries like ours.

The article goes on to describe similar stories in Kenya, where Father Angelo D'Agostino, a Jesuit priest and a personal friend of mine, founded a home in Nairobi for AIDS orphans. He gets calls seeking a home for 100 AIDS babies every month. He has room for only 80 children, many of whom watched their parents die.

Mr. President, there are more rescissions coming from the House, and there are proposals to cut the foreign assistance program. Meanwhile, in Africa there are 10 million people infected with HIV, and the number continues to climb. Close to a million and a half are children. Many of the HIV infections were spread by sexually transmitted diseases that are common wherever there is poverty. These diseases are common in our own country, but here we have the vaccines or medicines to cure them. There they do not, and they become HIV positive, and they die.

There is no cure for AIDS. Would those who would cut the meager funds we spend to fight AIDS in places like Uganda, or India where it is spreading like wildfire among a population of a billion people, have us seal our borders? Tell future generations of Americans that if they leave our shores they cannot return?

Mr. President, this is one of a dozen examples I could mention of what will happen if we cut these foreign assistance programs. It makes a great press release today. We might just as well be sentencing our children and grandchildren to death.

I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 17, 1995]

AFRICAN AIDS EPIDEMIC CREATING A SOCIETY OF ORPHANS—HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN LEFT PARENTLESS AS SCOURGE SWEEPS THE CONTINENT

(By Stephen Buckley)

KAKUUTO, UGANDA.—Elizabeth Nakaweesi, 17, became head of her household at 13.

In 1989, her mother died of AIDS. In 1991, AIDS killed her father. That left Elizabeth to care for her four brothers and sisters, now aged 10 to 15.

Instead of spending her days in school, she spends them making straw mats and cultivating her family's half-acre of banana trees. She makes \$40 a year.

"It is painful to have no parents," Elizabeth said recently, sitting in her family's battered clay hut. "If they were here, they