

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. STEVENS. 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. STEVENS. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. STEVENS. Mr. President, for the information of Senators, there will be no further action on the Defense appropriations bill tonight.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. STEVENS. I ask unanimous consent that we go into a period for morning business.

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

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, here we go again, yes, here we go again. The fiscal year ends tomorrow at midnight. Only two of the annual appropriations bills required to fund the Federal Government have been sent to the President. This is *deja vu* all over again.

As a result, the Congress is rushing through the stopgap money measure called a continuing resolution in order to prevent a massive shutdown of the departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

Is this the way to run a government?

This is no way to run a government.

The appropriations process is a very simple process, in reality. The President sends his recommendations to the Congress in the form of a budget, usually in early February. Subsequently, the House formulates reports, debates and passes 11 annual appropriations bills. To its credit, the House has done exactly that. It has done its job.

What is wrong with the Senate?

I commend the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Mr. COCHRAN. Yes, I commend him. With his steady leadership, the Senate Appropriations Committee has formulated and reported all of the annual appropriations bills. Eight of those appropriations bills have been passed by the Senate. Four appropriations bills are now pending in the Senate. This includes the Defense appropriations bill, the Transportation-Treasury appropriations bill,

Labor-Health and Human Services-Education appropriations bill, and the District of Columbia appropriations bill, which is likely to be added to the Transportation appropriations bill in order to conform to the House version.

That is where we stand today.

What is the problem?

Regrettably, the Senate Leadership has not seen fit to bring three of our appropriations bills to the floor. This is not the fault of the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. He has called upon the leadership, as did I, to give the appropriations bills high priority in the scheduling of floor time.

The Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill, the Transportation-Treasury appropriations bill, and the District of Columbia appropriations bill were approved by our Appropriations Committee over 2 months ago. I simply do not understand why the leadership is dragging its feet! Why not debate legislation that will fund critical investments in our schools, in our healthcare systems, and for our Nation's transportation infrastructure? Are Senators not going to have the opportunity to debate bills that provide over \$211 billion?

We need to debate each of these funding bills individually. We need to conference them individually with our House counterparts—not just consider them as sub-parts of a large omnibus package. That is what I believe the chairman of the Appropriations Committee wants, and that is what I, too, would like to see happen. I urge my colleagues to work toward that goal.

It is unfortunate that most of the regular programs of the departments and agencies of Government will limp into the new fiscal year, which begins—when? this Saturday, the day after tomorrow, under the terms and conditions of a very restrictive continuing resolution. Here we are in the midst of one of the largest natural disasters to hit the United States, and only two regular appropriations bills have been enacted. One would think that the Congress would want to enact all of the annual appropriations bills before the beginning of the fiscal year so that the Federal agencies can hit the road running on October 1st and deal with the problems confronting the American people. Instead, we are enacting a very restrictive stop-gap measure that merely prevents the Government from shutting down. What a shame. It is very unfortunate that the House majority refused to fix the problem created by the continuing resolution for the Community Services Block Grant program, which provides critical healthcare and nutrition services to the neediest Americans. It is very unfortunate that, as we approach winter with fuel prices expected to grow dramatically, this continuing resolution reduces funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

In conclusion, I am disappointed that the appropriations bills have not been enacted on a timely basis. Having said

that, I urge my colleagues to support the continuing resolution. We have no other choice.

I urge the leadership to call up the remaining appropriations bills, debate them, and send them to conference with the House. We have an obligation to the American people to get our work done. Debate and deliberation is what the Senate is supposed to be about—debate and deliberation and amending. The American people expect us to debate these bills and to protect the power of the purse and, thereby, protect their hard-earned tax dollars. These matters should not be swept under a carpet somewhere. More, not less, transparency is needed in debating appropriations bills. The Congress should have completed action on all the appropriations bills—not just two—on all the appropriations bills before the end of the fiscal year tomorrow night. Failing that, we should enact eleven individual, fiscally responsible annual appropriations bills before the termination of this continuing resolution on November 18th.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. 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.

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

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

IN REMEMBRANCE OF SAM VOLPENTEST

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate and pay tribute to the life of a great Washingtonian, a great American, and someone that I know even in the Nation's Capital will be remembered for his great contributions. Yesterday, I learned of the death of Sam Volpentest, a resident of Washington State, who lived to be 101-year-old.

Sam has continued to play a leadership role in our State. We were all proud of the fact that we all attended his 100th birthday party last year and that for the last several months he has continued to play a vital role in the State of Washington on important economic issues.

I am proud to say that Sam was a friend, and I am grateful for his mentorship and his wisdom. My thoughts are with his family and the larger Tri-City community that mourn his loss. This is a man who had a list of unending accomplishments and literally touched thousands of lives of his fellow citizens. He changed the course of history in Washington State and left his mark on this Nation's history, as well.

Sam's legacy was one of generosity, of leadership, of commitment, of inspiration—important lessons for Washingtonians to still benefit from.

My remarks today cannot justify the significance of his contribution. Sam moved with his family from Seattle to the Tri-Cities in 1949 and went into business as a tavern owner. The Tri-Cities was just at the beginning the epicenter of the nuclear age, a sleepy little town in Richmond that sprung to life when the Hanford site was selected in 1943 as the location of the Manhattan Project, plutonium production activities as part of President Roosevelt's strategy to win World War II. The Manhattan Project transformed the entire region from literally an agriculture and fishing economy centered on the Columbia River into a Federal booming town. It changed the course of our State and Nation's history.

Central Washington was booming, and Sam thought it was the right place for a salesman like him and his family; so he went to work right away on community and business issues.

It was his vision for the community that continued to push the community and the representatives who came here to Washington and those in Washington, DC, to further see the future in Washington State.

Hanford had grown due to the Federal investment in the Manhattan Project and later in support of the Cold War. At that time, Sam, a former salesman and tavern owner, found himself rubbing shoulders with the likes of Senators Jackson and Magnuson, and stories about Sam, Scoop, and Maggie are numerous and legendary.

I think this picture shows that even at that time, with my predecessors, Senator Warren Magnuson and Senator Scoop Jackson, Sam Volpentest even back then was right in the thick of things. The fact that he still consulted with Senator MURRAY and me up until the last several months showed his dedication to what this country needed to be focused on.

In 1956, Sam decided that Richland, WA—one of the Tri-Cities surrounding Hanford—looked too much like a construction camp. That is because it was a community that literally sprang up overnight out in the desert. Sam wanted that community to continue to grow.

The N-Reactor was one of the most critical investments in the Tri-Cities, with Sam Volpentest's fingerprints on it. The Hanford site evolved as our Nation's nuclear needs changed. Sam's efforts helped America stay in the lead during the nuclear age, put Americans to work, improved the lives of those living in central Washington, and it played an incredible role for our country.

In the mid-1960s, as the nuclear age transitioned, Sam saw the writing on the wall: the Tri-Cities would need to evolve with it. As Hanford's nuclear weapons material production activities began to slow, Sam's vision drove him to change his strategy as well.

I come back to a critical point I want to say. In the 1940s, as World War II raged in Asia, Europe, and North Afri-

ca, my State responded to the Federal Government's call. As Federal investment grew during the early days of the Manhattan Project, this remote area of our State responded with the energy infrastructure that was so critical in helping launch the nuclear age. This world's first large-scale production nuclear reactor, the B Reactor, located in our State, played an incredibly vital role.

The reason I emphasize that is because Sam realized that once that goal was achieved, the region needed to keep playing an important role in our national security issues, and that was through the contributions of its workforce and materials needed throughout our time period post-World War II.

Our contribution and Sam's continuing contribution was to make sure the Federal investment and cleanup work at Hanford was actually achieved. Sam knew that the Tri-Cities had a lot to offer our Nation, but he knew that the economy needed to have diversity and that cleanup was part of it. So what did Sam do? He went about convincing Federal officials, private investment, and other resources to come to Hanford and explore more efficient ways to clean up the waste, and not just at our site in Washington State but around the world.

Sam's vision led to a larger vision that has leveraged the workforce in the State of Washington. Those efforts led to the establishment of one of our National Laboratories, the Pacific Northwest National Lab in the Tri-Cities. Today, Federal research dollars spur research and development in countless scientific areas—from proteomics research, nuclear materials cleanup, biofuels, and many more.

Sam did not just want to get the work done; he wanted the workforce and the community to be safe. Sam worked to further the economic development and success of his community through a variety of government and community organizations.

One of his most important projects was helping the business community get access to small business contracts that were being part of the Federal work commissioned at Hanford. Some of the most notable projects Sam Volpentest is responsible for in the Tri-Cities in Washington State are a six-story Federal building in Richland, the inception of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, three freeways, twin bridges over the Columbia River, the N-Reactor Hanford Generating Plant, the Fast Flux Test Facility, the Life Sciences Laboratory and the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory, the Hanford House/Red Lion Hotel, the Iowa Beef Processing Plant, and Sam's namesake, the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center.

This training center is probably one of Sam's greatest accomplishments because it still today provides Hanford workers with real-time training in safety and response. The training facil-

ity now has trained countless first responders from governments all over our country and all over the world on how to respond to safety incidents from a more robust public participation. Sam's efficiency at this training facility gives those who are first responders the on-the-job-training they need.

Sam was often asked when he was going to retire—for example, whether it would be at age 65 or 75. He said: Why would I want to do that? Don't retire. Look to the future. Ask what you can do for your community that has been so good to you. Get out there and do something. And even if you do it for free, it will make you feel great afterward.

That was Sam Volpentest, a great Washingtonian, a great member of our country. We will miss "Mr. Tri-Cities," and we will try to live up to his legacy of accomplishment and continue to bring about a good cooperative relationship between a key part of Washington State, the great Tri-Cities, and our Federal Government, in making sure the Volpentest legacy continues.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

AMENDING THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I thought the CR—the continuing resolution, as it is known around this place—was going to be laid down tonight. I guess it will not be laid down until tomorrow. But I will be offering an amendment the first thing in the morning on behalf of myself and a number of other cosponsors: Mr. KOHL, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. CANTWELL. I think by tomorrow morning there are going to be a lot more on this list.

It is basically a very simple amendment. All it says is:

Notwithstanding section 101 of this joint resolution, amounts are provided for making payments under the "Community Services Block Grant Act" at a rate not less than the amounts made available for such Act in fiscal year 2005.

Well, what that means is that this amendment, then, will continue the community services block grants at last year's level.

Now, you might say: Well, wait a minute. Isn't that what a continuing resolution does, it continues everything at last year's level?

Well, we have a continuing resolution the likes of which I have never seen. I have not seen it in the last 10 years. I have asked my staff to go back 20 years or so to see if we had something like it.

Here is what the House has done. They have sent us a continuing resolution that continues funding either at last year's level or at the House budget level, whichever is lower—whichever is