

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, we won't make any predictions. We will get started and do our best. I thank my good friend and look forward to working with him again next year. We have truly formed a unique partnership, the two of us together. I thank so many Senators who recognize that he and I have a trusting partnership and resolved a lot of problems that otherwise could prove contentious and maybe not had a resolution. So to the next year.

I must say, I have consulted with the Senator from Michigan. Both of us have great concern about the IED problem. We are going to have one more hearing, in all probability a closed hearing, on this subject, listening to some viewpoints in the private sector. We regularly meet with those in the Department of Defense who have the primary jurisdiction over this problem. This is one issue on which I am gravely concerned and over which I lose sleep at night, as I am sure all of us do, about the frightful weaponry the insurgents are employing and how best we can put the entire country to work to resolve this problem.

I thank my good friend.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, if I may very briefly respond.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I commend our chairman for the initiative which he has shown on the IED issue. We had a hearing a few weeks ago on this issue which was one of the most fascinating and I think one of the most important hearings our committee has held, at least that I can remember, exclusively on the IED issue. It was under the chairman's leadership that we did this. I think it was a significant hearing.

This committee has been absolutely dedicated to doing everything we possibly can in addressing this threat. We have done everything we know how to do, but we still have not solved the problem. As the chairman mentioned, we are looking for additional technologies, additional ways in which this problem can be addressed.

I did want to mention that hearing because I thought it was unusually important.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank my good friend; again, a partnership effort to achieve that.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2862

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, on behalf of the distinguished majority leader, I ask unanimous consent that at 2:30 p.m. today, the Senate proceed to the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2862, the Science-State-Justice appropriations bill. I further ask that there be 75 minutes of debate, with 22½ minutes under the control of Senator SHELBY, 37½ minutes under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee, and 15 minutes under the control of Sen-

ator COBURN. I further ask that following the use or yielding back of time and at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to a vote on the adoption of the conference report, with no intervening action or debate.

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

RECESS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, we will now go to the standing order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, following the vote on passage of S. 1042, the Senate stands in recess until 2:30 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:22 p.m., recessed until 2:29 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. VOINOVICH).

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RE- LATED AGENCIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2862, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2862) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate to the text, and agree to the same with an amendment, and the Senate agree to the same, that the Senate recede from its amendment to the title of the bill, signed by a majority of conferees on the part of both Houses.

(The conference report was printed in the House proceedings of November 7, 2005.)

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I would like to begin by thanking Senator MIKULSKI, the distinguished ranking member of this subcommittee. The Senator from Maryland and I have worked in a bipartisan manner to produce the bill that is now before the Senate.

I thank Chairman WOLF and Congressman MOLLOHAN. They have worked with us to resolve some considerable differences in our two bills, and I commend them for their efforts.

Finally, I thank Chairman COCHRAN, the chairman of the full Appropriations Committee.

The bill before us today is the conference report for H.R. 2862, the Science, State, Justice and Commerce appropriations bill. Overall, this is a very good bill. Make no mistake, this was a lean year, a very lean year. The subcommittee's 302(b) allocation did not account for several sizeable programs which were proposed for termination in the administration's budget, which this subcommittee restored.

In the Senate, the subcommittee that I chair is called the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, CJS, Appropriations Subcommittee. The Senate CJS Subcommittee no longer has jurisdiction over the operations budget of the State Department, which has been merged with the Foreign Operations Subcommittee. Under a previous arrangement, however, the State Department is being considered under the House framework, therefore the bill before the Senate is the Science, State, Justice and Commerce Appropriations conference report.

The bill that we are considering today provides a total of \$61.8 billion in budget authority to agencies under the bill's jurisdiction, including the State Department. For those agencies under the Senate subcommittee's jurisdiction—the Departments of Commerce and Justice, NASA, NSF, and others—approximately \$52.2 billion in budget authority is provided.

The bill includes an increase of just over \$1 billion above the budget request for the Department of Justice. The bulk of this increase is due to the restoration of many of the proposed cuts to State and local law enforcement grant programs.

The bill provides \$6.5 million for the Department of Commerce. Several programs within the Department of Commerce were proposed for termination in the President's fiscal year 2006 budget. This bill restores funding for these programs, among them the Economic Development Administration and the Public Telecommunications Facilities, Planning and Construction grants.

The bill provides increases for NASA to move forward with the vision the President has proposed, while fulfilling our commitments to important existing programs.

At a time when there are so many demands being made on scarce Federal dollars, difficult decisions had to be made. We have tried to address the priorities that so many of our colleagues brought to our attention. Though we were able to accommodate many of our colleagues' requests, we were obviously not able to do everything everyone has requested.

I believe that we endeavored to produce a bill that is bipartisan and that, we feel, serves the need of this country and we were successful.

I yield to Senator MIKULSKI, my esteemed ranking member, for her statement.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, Senator SHELBY and I have worked on a bipartisan basis to bring this bill back to the floor as a conference report. We are in agreement with the principles of the bill so we are able to bring the bill forward. On our side, we estimate that we have three other speakers. We note the Senator from Minnesota is in the Chamber and he wishes to speak. There are two others whom we expect to speak.

This is a new subcommittee. The VA-HUD Subcommittee on Appropriations