

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the House stands in recess until 3:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 3:30 p.m.

## AFTER RECESS

□ 1533

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TALENT) at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 164 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1530.

## IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1530) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1996 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes with Mr. EMERSON in the Chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. SPENCE] and the gentleman from California [Mr. DELLUMS] will each be recognized for 1 hour.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. SPENCE].

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to section 5(c) of House Resolution 164, I request that during the consideration of H.R. 1530, amendments number 1 and 2 printed in subpart B of part 1 of House Report 104-136 be considered before amendment number 1 printed in subpart A of part 1 of that report.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's request is noted.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. SPENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 1530, the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1996.

This bill is the first since the end of the cold war to truly look to the future while not ignoring the present. Much has changed since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of Soviet communism, but much remains the same.

First and foremost, the United States is still a superpower with global, political, economic, and moral interests. Yet none of these can be protected, nor pro-

moted, without a strong military. We still live in a violent world: from ethnic conflicts to regional wars, the United States has faced and will face a host of challenges to its national interests.

Nor have all the changes we have seen in the post-cold-war world been benign. The crumbling of communism has rekindled rivalries and hatreds frozen in place for decades. In Asia, Africa, Europe, and even here in the Americas, armed force remains the ultimate arbiter of political disputes.

The Clinton administration has responded to this growing chaos with an ambitious but ill-defined strategy of engagement and enlargement. The President has resolved to be able to fight and win two nearly simultaneous major regional wars in the decisive fashion Americans demand. Moreover, this administration has taken on an increased number of commitments in the form of a wide range of U.N.-led peace operations.

While asking more of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, the administration is simultaneously giving them fewer tools to work with: fewer troops, fewer new weapons, fewer training opportunities. What was once a cautious and disciplined reduction in American forces has plunged into a decade of defense decline—a decline that has created a dangerous \$250 billion gap between strategy and resources. The administration can neither honor its present strategic commitments nor prepare for future challenges.

For the first time in a decade, the defense authorization bill says—STOP. Stop the slide in defense spending. Stop the dissipation of our military power on futile missions. Stop the postponing of proper training. Stop the decline of our defense industrial base. Stop the erosion of servicemembers' quality of life. Stop frittering away defense resources on nondefense research. Stop the shell game that is mortgaging long-term modernization needs in order to plug holes in underfunded near-term readiness and quality of life accounts.

This bill also starts the process of revitalizing America's defenses. Be sure that American soldiers are under American command. Set a clear course for stable and predictable defense spending. Provide the men and women who wear an American uniform with adequate training. Preserve the technological edge that is a force multiplier and saves lives. Guarantee a decent standard of living for them and their families. Protect our troops abroad and Americans here at home from the threat of ballistic missiles.

This bill's efforts to bridge the growing inconsistencies between strategy and resource, and therefore begin a meaningful revitalization of our defenses, rests on four pillars:

First, it improves the quality of service life by raising pay, enhancing housing benefits, increasing construction of family housing and prohibiting deeper cuts in manpower levels.

Second, It preserves near and far-term military readiness by more robustly funding core readiness accounts and by creating a mechanism for funding the growing number of unbudgeted contingency operations from non-readiness accounts.

Third, it dramatically increases weapons modernization funding in response to the administration's having mortgaged these programs to address near-term shortfalls. Modernization will help to ensure cutting edge technology on the battlefield in the future, as well as a viable industrial base to provide this technology.

Fourth, it begins to aggressively reform the bloated and unresponsive Pentagon bureaucracy by reducing a growing civilian Secretariat as well as the acquisition work force, streamlining the procurement process, and eliminating nondefense research and encouraging privatization initiatives. This last pillar, in particular, is essential for generating longterm savings needed to maintain American military might over time as well as creating a more agile Defense Department able to respond in a timely manner to new challenges. Our men and women in uniform, and certainly the taxpayers, deserve no less.

These four pillars are central to a sound defense program, one that can begin to bridge the gap between strategy and resources. This bill protects the peace we have won in the cold war and prepares us to prevail quickly and decisively in the future. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1530. It is a bipartisan bill on an important set of bipartisan issues.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. DELLUMS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the recommendation of the Committee on National Security on the bill before the body at this time, H.R. 1530, as amended.

Mr. Chairman, the overall level of expenditures contained within the bill is too high, even though within the budget resolution limits. The bill's spending returns us to cold war priorities, and numerous provisions promote extreme agendas on major social issues.

Deliberation on the bill has been so frustrated that the committee's well-developed and well-earned legacy of bipartisanship has tattered because of the unwillingness sincerely to solicit administration and alternative views.

H.R. 1530 contains numerous and sweeping provisions that have been developed without, Mr. Chairman, and I underscore for emphasis without, the benefit of full consultation with the administration and others, and have not been illuminated properly even by the subcommittee's and full committee's hearing process. These include initiatives and personnel matters, weapons