

Mr. President, this amendment is sponsored by myself, Senator LAUTENBERG, Senator EXON, and Senator KERREY from Nebraska.

The purpose of this amendment is to provide in this bill funds for the highest priority that the Secretary of Defense has identified if we are in a position to provide any additional funds in this defense bill.

As everybody here knows, the administration asked for a certain level of funding, and this body is adding \$7 billion to that pursuant to the budget resolution. The Secretary told us in the Armed Services Committee that if we had any additional money—not if we had \$7 billion, but if we had anything extra—we should fund what he considered ongoing operations. Those are the two operations going on in Iraq—one in northern Iraq and one in southern Iraq—we should fund the refugee support at Guantanamo, which is ongoing, and we should fund the humanitarian support and the deny-flight activities in Bosnia. He said at a very minimum next year he is going to have to spend a total of \$1.188 billion on those activities.

We did not in this bill fund that, and what I am proposing in this amendment is that we go ahead and fund that as he requested. In addition, we reduce the outlays in the total bill by \$111 million.

Now, the offset is to cancel, at least for this year, or put off, I should say, the funding of an amphibious assault ship, the LHD-7. This is a ship which the Department of Defense said they would like to come to Congress and request funds for 6 years from now, in the year 2001—not 1996, the year 2001.

The appropriators have taken the request for the 6th year and moved it forward into this next year. We do not need this ship next year. This would be the 12th LHD amphibious assault ship that we are buying. There are two under construction now. We just christened one in February of this year.

Mr. President, it is not a priority for the Pentagon. It was not requested by the Pentagon in this year's budget, and it was added by the appropriators. We should delete the funding for that and spend it on the top priority of the Department of Defense. That is what the amendment does. I hope my colleagues will support the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, this does subtract \$1.3 billion for the LHD-7. It is the top priority for the Marine Corps and the Navy. The Secretary of Navy has reaffirmed support of the LHD-7. It is authorized in the authorization bill.

I have moved to table. I yield back the remainder of my time. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on agreeing to the

Bingaman amendment No. 2390. The yeas and nays have been ordered.

Mr. STEVENS. This is a 10-minute rollcall.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair reminds the Senate this is a 10-minute rollcall.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. BRADLEY] is absent because of illness in the family.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber who desire to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 73, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 385 Leg.]

YEAS—73

Abraham	Frist	Mack
Akaka	Glenn	McCain
Ashcroft	Gorton	McConnell
Bennett	Gramm	Mikulski
Biden	Grams	Murkowski
Bond	Grassley	Nickles
Breaux	Gregg	Nunn
Brown	Hatch	Packwood
Burns	Hatfield	Pressler
Byrd	Heflin	Robb
Campbell	Helms	Roth
Chafee	Hollings	Santorum
Coats	Hutchison	Sarbanes
Cochran	Inhofe	Shelby
Cohen	Inouye	Simpson
Coverdell	Jeffords	Smith
Craig	Johnston	Snowe
D'Amato	Kassebaum	Specter
DeWine	Kempthorne	Stevens
Dodd	Kennedy	Thomas
Dole	Kerry	Thompson
Domenici	Kyl	Thurmond
Faircloth	Lieberman	Thurmond
Feinstein	Lott	Warner
Ford	Lugar	

NAYS—26

Baucus	Feingold	Moynihan
Bingaman	Graham	Murray
Boxer	Harkin	Pell
Bryan	Kerrey	Pryor
Bumpers	Kohl	Reid
Conrad	Lautenberg	Rockefeller
Daschle	Leahy	Simon
Dorgan	Levin	Wellstone
Exon	Moseley-Braun	

NOT VOTING—1

Bradley

The motion to table the amendment (No. 2390) was agreed to.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the motion was agreed to.

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—NOMINATION OF LAWRENCE H. SUMMERS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate proceeds to the consideration of Executive Calendar No. 254, Lawrence Summers, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, there be a 10-minute limit on debate equally divided between the majority and minority leaders, or their designees; that following the expiration of that time, the Senate proceed to vote immediately on the confirmation of the nomination.

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

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on that nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, that vote will be one of those that are stacked for the next time.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT 1996

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, we are going to proceed to the next Bingaman amendment. Senator BINGAMAN has asked for the right to have 2 minutes before the second and third amendments. He would like to use four amendments now and have the two amendments run without any intervening debate. I so ask unanimous consent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New Mexico is recognized for 4 minutes.

AMENDMENT NOS. 2392 AND 2394

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I yield myself 3 of the 4 minutes. If I can be notified at the end of that time, then I will yield the last minute to the Senator from Ohio.

Mr. President, these two provisions, which are the subject of the next two amendments, are provisions which are hard to understand unless you understand the context.

The first of these amendments strikes a provision that is in the bill that increases progress payments to defense contractors from 75 percent to 85 percent. It is for large defense contractors. There is clearly no need for us to do this. All of these contractors are profitable. There has been no complaint about the current procedure where we pay 75 percent in progress payments. This provision is in the bill not to address a need. It is in the bill simply to soak up \$488 million in outlays which the Defense Subcommittee did not want to leave unused.

This provision would also deny all discretion to contracting officers on whether or not to make these payments, even if the contractor is not performing. They would have to make 85 percent progress payments if this provision remained in the bill, which it will not. This provision will be dropped in conference, and the funds that are protected here, as outlays, will be used for other purposes. That is the whole idea of having this provision in the bill.

There are better uses for this \$488 million in outlays. We could use it for deficit reduction, we could use it for some domestic accounts. Clearly, I urge my colleagues to vote to strike the provision.