

most of the extraneous legislative riders in the bill. Under the conference agreement, the President was given the authority to waive implementation of these riders, most of which are attempts to weaken our environmental laws and regulations. Knowing the strong commitment that the President and Vice President have to protecting our environment, I am quite certain that the President will exercise his authority to ensure that these riders are not implemented. These legislative restrictions have no place on an appropriations bill to begin with. More importantly, they seriously undermine our commitment to ensure a healthy and safe environment for our children. Every poll indicates that the public expects the Government to be the public steward of our precious natural resources—our public lands, our air, and our water. That stewardship must not be abandoned.

This bill also addresses critical local issues. As all of my colleagues know, flooding in the Devils Lake Basin continues to pose serious problems for residents and businesses in North Dakota. Just this week, Devils Lake reached another 120-year high level and the lake is expected to rise by an additional two feet next June or July. When the lake rose to its current level last July, it caused \$50 million in damages to roads and public and private property in the area. Similar damages are expected this year.

Because of this serious situation, during the Senate's original consideration of this measure, Senator CONRAD and I proposed two amendments to mitigate the flooding problems at Devils Lake. Those amendments were adopted by the full Senate. The first amendment added \$10 million to the Economic Development Administration budget for hazard mitigation assistance in the form of road raises and water storage on private lands in the Devils Lake Basin. The second amendment provided an additional \$2.8 million to the Fish and Wildlife Service for water storage and for necessary repairs on their already damaged lands in the Devils Lake area. The House bill had no similar provisions.

I would like to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, particularly Senators HATFIELD, BYRD, HOLLINGS, GORTON and GREGG, for ensuring that the bulk of the money provided in our floor amendments was retained in conference. While there are no earmarks in the conference agreement, the statement of managers report makes clear that the Fish and Wildlife Service should give every consideration to the needs at Devils Lake in allocating the \$38.9 million in additional disaster relief funding made available to that agency in the conference agreement.

The total pot of disaster funding in the bill for the Economic Development Administration—\$18 million—is made available for disasters in the Pacific Northwest and for other disasters nationwide, so North Dakota will have to

compete with other States for that money. Senator CONRAD and I intend to work closely with the administration to ensure that Devils Lake receives its fair share of that funding. If we successful, we can take preventive measures to mitigate the anticipated flooding in the Devils Lake Basin this summer, and significantly reduce future Federal and State disaster assistance outlays.

While this is not a perfect agreement, it's a good compromise, and I am pleased that the overwhelming majority of my colleagues supported it. •

WELCOME TO DR. ABDALLA A. NSSOUR, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to extend welcoming remarks to Dr. Abdalla A. Nssour, Deputy Prime Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Dr. Nssour will be the honored guest at a dinner on May 2, 1996 in Livonia, MI. In addition, I would also like to welcome to Michigan His Excellency Fayez Tarawneh, Ambassador to the United States from Jordan, and Head of the Jordanian Delegation to the Middle East Peace Process. The American Arab Chamber of Commerce, Michigan, the Jordanian American Association of Michigan, and Royal Jordanian Airlines will be sponsoring the dinner honoring Dr. Nssour.

In addition to serving as Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Nssour also serves as the Minister of Higher Education and the Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Jordanian Parliament. Prior to his esteemed government service, Dr. Nssour had many great accomplishments in the scientific community. I am certain that the dinner audience will be greatly enriched by Dr. Nssour's remarks.

It is most fitting that the Arab American community has chosen to honor Dr. Nssour for his service to his country and I am pleased to join the community in welcoming Dr. Nssour to Michigan. •

THE US MILITARY AND A NEW CENTURY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, this week the Senate Armed Services Committee is engaged in marking up the fiscal year 1997 Defense authorization bill. All of us on the committee, as well as many of my colleagues who are not on the defense committee, are concerned about how we fund, structure, equip, maintain and train our military forces to meet the challenges which our country faces today and will face tomorrow as we defend and advance our national interests. I would like to speak for a few moments today about some of the difficult questions I believe we are facing as we confront the challenges which lie ahead for our military forces.

The millennium is coming and beyond it a new century—a century which, if what we see occurring around us today offers any indication, will bring changes few of us can begin to imagine, no more than people at the end of the 19th century could have foretold what the 20th century would bring.

We need only to look at the incredible leaps which have occurred in technology in the past decade and the ever-increasing frequency with which new technological wonders are being introduced to know that the 21st Century will be a time of amazing change full of great opportunity and great risk for all of us.

The past years have shown us not only that new technologies are becoming more readily available—whether it is faster, smaller and cheaper computers and computer chips, inexpensive and reliable global positioning systems, or communications which permit us to bring into our homes hundreds of different television channels from around the world, movies on demand, and global news which is real-time and all too real—but that changes will have to come about in the way we organize our daily lives and the very structure of businesses and institutions in response to that technology. Those enterprises which fail to adapt to new technology quickly find themselves behind their competitors and, in the private sector, are soon out of business.

The same is true of national governments and military organizations—those which are unable to recognize that rapid change is the one constant in our lives and cannot exploit that change, risk falling behind their potential competitors. History teaches that every significant new industrial or technological advance finds its way into warfare. Unlike business, however, the price of failure for our national security is not bankruptcy or disappointed shareholders; it could well be the loss of our freedom, our foreign markets and the safe and prosperous future which all of us seek for our children.

Guaranteeing our security in the new century will require innovation. It will also require courage and wisdom as we incorporate technology and innovation into our defense structure.

To help structure the very important debate which I believe we need to engage in across the country on national security, I would like to offer a few observations and pose a few questions

First, as we look to the future, we ought to be asking a very basic question: What is it we want our military to be able to do? Not just in the sense of military capabilities—this is an important question we will get to shortly—rather, the broader question that underlies the other. What role do we want the United States to play in the next century and what will we need our military to be able to do in order for the US to play that role?