

step toward balancing the budget of the United States, the thing to do today would be to say, OK, we have to give some with regard to the defense budget, because the defense budget, obviously, with its vast multibillion-dollar increase, while we are reducing the real needs of Medicare and Medicaid and education and the environment and other programs, flies in the face of reality.

Another way to put that, Mr. President, would be to say this is a chance for people who preach fiscal discipline, who want a balanced budget by the year 2002, who want a constitutional amendment to guarantee that by the year 2002, with this modest amendment offered by the Senator from Nebraska and others to practice what they preach.

There have been some things said today in this Chamber during this debate about Admiral Boorda, our late and dear colleague, who was very close to this particular Senator. The statement has been made that Admiral Boorda was asked what more money could he use as head of the Navy if he had it.

That is like saying to a military leader, is there anything at all that you would like to have if you had a blank check?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMPSON). The Senator's 8 minutes have expired.

Mr. EXON. Have I used up my time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes.

Mr. EXON. I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute to close.

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

Mr. EXON. I simply say that Admiral Boorda or any other military leader, given such an opportunity, would be derelict in his duty, it seems to me, if he could not come up with some concept or idea. That is the wish list that I talked about earlier.

The last time I saw Admiral Boorda was shortly before his death when he came to my office. I said, "What can I do for you, admiral?" He said, "You can't do anything for me, Senator. I just want to thank you for the great support that you have given the U.S. Navy all of these years."

So I do not propose to speak for Admiral Boorda, but I simply say that I think Admiral Boorda, when he signed onto the real needs of the Navy, meant just what he said. And I suspect that if Admiral Boorda were here, he would say that you should take a close look, Senators, at adding \$9 billion over what myself and other members of the Joint Chiefs recommended as incorporated in the President's budget.

Mr. President, I urge adoption of the amendment, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

Is there a sufficient second?

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I second.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There appears to be.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following my remarks there be printed in the RECORD a letter dated June 19, 1996, to myself, Senator BINGAMAN, and Senator KOHL, from the Taxpayers for Common Sense in support of the Exon amendment.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

TAXPAYERS FOR COMMON SENSE,  
June 19, 1996.

Hon. JAMES EXON,

Hon. JEFF BINGAMAN,

Hon. HERB KOHL,

U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

SENATORS EXON, BINGAMAN AND KOHL: Taxpayers for Common Sense is pleased to support your amendments to the FY 97 defense authorization bill to cut the overall level of defense spending by \$4 billion. With Congress working to reduce the deficit, this cut is a fair compromise on the defense budget.

The Department of Defense (DOD) bill authorizes \$13 billion in budget authority above the President's request. It seems questionable to offer such a large increase to the budget of an agency whose accounting systems and practices are so weak. In 1995, the DOD Comptroller gave up trying to find \$15 billion in "missing" DOD funds. Government investigations have revealed that out of 36 Pentagon agencies audited last year, 28 of them used records "in such terrible condition" that their financial statements were "utterly useless."

Every agency is being asked to examine its own budget and implement effective spending strategies. In light of the fact that \$4.6 billion of the Committee's \$13 billion increase was not in the Future Years Defense Plan, a \$4 billion cut merely attempts to bring the defense budget in line with all the other agencies.

Taxpayers for Common Sense supports your efforts in working toward a balanced budget. This amendment is the first step toward fiscal responsibility for the Pentagon. We urge all members of the Senate to support your amendments.

Sincerely,

RALPH DEGENNARO,  
Executive Director.

Mr. THURMOND addressed the Chair. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator THURMOND is recognized.

#### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. THURMOND. At this time, I ask unanimous-consent that yesterday's agreement on minimum wage be further modified to allow for the two leaders to void this agreement up until the hour of 5:30 p.m. today.

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

Mr. EXON. I am sorry; I could not hear the Senator.

What was the unanimous consent request, I ask my friend from South Carolina, to do what at 5:15?

Mr. THURMOND. To allow for the two leaders to void this agreement up until the hour of 5:30 p.m. today.

Mr. EXON. I have no objection. I thank my friend from South Carolina.

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

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. EXON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. EXON. May I inquire of the Chair as to the anticipated procedures? I understand we are stacking votes until sometime to be determined later by the two leaders. I assume that the next order of business under the unanimous-consent agreement would be the amendment to be offered by the distinguished chairman of the committee and the ranking member with 20 minutes equally divided. Is that now the pending business before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 4346

(Purpose: To reduce the total funding authorized in the bill for the national defense function to the level provided in the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 1997)

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk on behalf of myself and Senator NUNN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Carolina [Mr. THURMOND], for himself and Mr. NUNN, proposes an amendment numbered 4346.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

After section 3, add the following:

#### SEC. 4. GENERAL LIMITATION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the total amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 1997 for the national defense function under the provisions of this Act is \$265,583,000,000.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, this amendment recognizes that the Defense authorization bill is currently \$1.7 billion over the amounts provided for in the concurrent budget resolution for fiscal year 1997, and reduces the spending authorizations in this bill to comply with the budget resolution.

Mr. President, the committee finished its markup of the Defense authorization bill prior to the budget resolution being resolved and even before the Senate version was passed. This amendment reduces the spending amounts authorized in this bill to be in compliance with the fiscal year 1997 budget resolution.