

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 12:30 having arrived, the Senate will now stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, at 12:36 p.m., the Senate recessed until 2:15 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CAMPBELL).

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

EXCEPTED COMMITTEE AMENDMENT ON PAGE 104, LINES 21-24

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the vote will now occur on the Smith motion to table the committee amendment.

The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD], the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI], and the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SANTORUM] are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD] would vote "nay."

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. LAUTENBERG] is necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 42, nays 54, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 266 Leg.]

YEAS—42

Abraham	Grassley	McCain
Akaka	Gregg	Murray
Baucus	Harkin	Nickles
Biden	Hatch	Pryor
Boxer	Helms	Reid
Brown	Inhofe	Roth
Bumpers	Jeffords	Smith
Cohen	Johnston	Snowe
Conrad	Kennedy	Specter
D'Amato	Kerrey	Thomas
Dorgan	Kerry	Thompson
Faircloth	Kohl	Warner
Feingold	Leahy	Wellstone
Grams	Levin	Wyden

NAYS—54

Ashcroft	Domenici	Lott
Bennett	Exon	Lugar
Bingaman	Feinstein	Mack
Bond	Ford	McConnell
Bradley	Frahm	Mikulski
Breaux	Frist	Moseley-Braun
Bryan	Glenn	Moynihan
Burns	Gorton	Nunn
Byrd	Graham	Pell
Campbell	Gramm	Pressler
Chafee	Heflin	Robb
Coats	Hollings	Rockefeller
Cochran	Hutchison	Sarbanes
Coverdell	Inouye	Shelby
Craig	Kassebaum	Simon
Daschle	Kempthorne	Simpson
DeWine	Kyl	Stevens
Dodd	Lieberman	Thurmond

NOT VOTING—4

Hatfield	Murkowski
Lautenberg	Santorum

The motion to lay on the table the committee amendment on page 104, lines 21-24, was rejected.

Mr. BOND. I move to reconsider the vote.

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the underlying amendment is agreed to.

The committee amendment on page 104, lines 21-24, was agreed to.

Mr. FORD. 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. BUMPERS. 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. 5178

(Purpose: To reduce the appropriation for the implementation of the space station program for the purpose of terminating the program)

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arkansas [Mr. BUMPERS], for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. KOHL, Mr. SIMON, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BRADLEY, and Mr. WYDEN, proposes an amendment numbered 5178.

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

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 82, strike lines 6 through 7, and insert in lieu thereof the following: "sion and administrative aircraft, \$3,762,900,000, to remain available until September 30, 1998. *Provided*, That of the funds made available in this bill, no funds shall be expended on the space station program, except for termination costs."

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, as most of my colleagues know, this amendment would terminate NASA's space station program. This morning on the way to work, I was discussing this amendment with my administrative assistant, and we were discussing the fact that this is perhaps the fifth year I have offered this amendment in an effort to stop what I consider is a disaster in the making. She said, "Why do you persist in doing this every year?" That is an easy question to answer. The short answer is that I believe very strongly that we are embarked on the expenditure of \$100 billion that, in the final analysis, is going to be considered by every physicist, every top medical man in the country, and by most Members of Congress, those who are willing to admit that we may have

made a mistake, as a terrible financial disaster.

We still have a chance to prevent that disaster. If we were to adopt the Bumpers amendment today, we have a chance to save between \$50 and \$74 billion. I invite all of my colleagues to look at the budget for the future. Defense continues to go up. Entitlements will continue to go up. Everything will go up, except that roughly 18 percent of the budget which we call domestic discretionary spending, within which lies this \$100 billion for the space station.

Do you know what domestic discretionary spending is? It is not Social Security. It is not Medicaid. It is not senatorial pensions, Government pensions, or military pensions. It is not interest on the debt. It is that very small portion of money that Congress still has some control over that determines the kind of nation we are going to be. It is the money we spend on education. How many times have I said that when American families sit around the dinner table in the evening and talk about what they love the most, it is not that Mercedes out in the driveway, it is not the farm out back, or that posh office downtown, or the country club and the golf course on weekends. It is their children.

The more money you pour into wasteful spending, like the space station, the less you are going to have for the thing you love most, your children. When people talk about how much they love their children, what do they talk about? They talk about their education. What else? They talk about their children, long after the parents are dead, being able to breathe clean air and drink clean water. And where are the environmental constraints and improvements located? In domestic discretionary spending right there with the space station.

When people talk about their children, they talk about how to keep them out of gangs, the place where so much of the crime in this country is located. Where is law enforcement found? Right in that small pocket of money for domestic discretionary spending.

So this vote is about whether you believe in space. This vote is not about whether you get teary-eyed every time you see the shuttle take off. You are making a big, big decision, a big, big choice on where you want our country's money spent. For every dime you put into the space station, it is a dime that will not be available for our children's education. It will not be available for legitimate, honest-to-God medical research. It will not be available for all of those things that go right to the heart of what kind of nation we want to be.

In 1984—some Members of this body remember it well—Ronald Reagan stood on the floor of the House of Representatives and he talked about the space station and how we were going to build a space station and have it completed by 1992. In 8 years we were going to build this monumental demonstration of our scientific skills. For how