

Mr. President, I rise today in support of the conference report for the fiscal year 1997 District of Columbia appropriations bill.

Mr. President, the conference report for the fiscal year 1997 District of Columbia appropriations bill includes \$718 million in Federal funds and \$5.02 billion in District of Columbia funds. This figure is \$1 million more in Federal funds and \$29 million less in District of Columbia funds than in the original Senate version of this bill.

This conference report has my signature and my vote for final passage. The District's financial situation demands as much. But I do have reservations: in particular, the inclusion of the House of Representatives' position on abortions and domestic partners. As you may know the Senate version of the District of Columbia Appropriations bill, which passed unanimously, contained language allowing the city to use non-Federal dollars to fund certain abortion services and domestic partner benefits. Use of Federal moneys to provide these services was prohibited, but the District could use its own money. For its part, the House of Representatives; version of the bill prohibited the use of all funds, including District Funds, in support of these services.

We have been here before. This is not a new debate. In fact, the House position represents current law. But as a proponent of a woman's right to choose, I oppose that position both on substantive grounds and because it is too broad an incursion into home rule. On the issue of domestic partners, again we should show some measure of restraint when it comes to an issue on which the local electorate—through its duly elected officials—has spoken.

Mr. President, I compliment the chairman of the subcommittee, Senator JEFFORDS, and thank him for his hard work in representing the views of the Senate in conference. The House conferees were tough, but fair, negotiators. They, too, deserve thanks for their cooperation.

I urge my Senate colleagues to adopt the conference report on behalf of all those who visit, live, and work in the Nation's Capital.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997—CONFERENCE REPORT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the first vote will be on the conference report accompanying H.R. 3517. The question is on agreeing to the conference report. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 6, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 269 Leg.]

YEAS—92

Abraham	Feinstein	Mack
Akaka	Ford	McConnell
Ashcroft	Frahm	Mikulski
Baucus	Frist	Moseley-Braun
Bennett	Gorton	Moynihan
Biden	Graham	Murray
Bingaman	Gramm	Nicksles
Bond	Grams	Nunn
Boxer	Grassley	Pell
Breaux	Gregg	Pressler
Bryan	Hatch	Pryor
Bumpers	Heflin	Reid
Burns	Helms	Robb
Byrd	Hollings	Rockefeller
Campbell	Hutchison	Roth
Chafee	Inhofe	Santorum
Coats	Inouye	Sarbanes
Cochran	Jeffords	Shelby
Cohen	Johnston	Simon
Conrad	Kassebaum	Simpson
Coverdell	Kempthorne	Smith
Craig	Kennedy	Snowe
D'Amato	Kerry	Specter
Daschle	Kohl	Stevens
DeWine	Kyl	Thomas
Dodd	Lautenberg	Thompson
Domenici	Leahy	Thurmond
Dorgan	Levin	Warner
Exon	Lieberman	Wellstone
Faircloth	Lott	Wyden
Feingold	Lugar	

NAYS—6

Bradley	Glenn	Kerrey
Brown	Harkin	McCain

NOT VOTING—2

Hatfield	Murkowski
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The conference report was agreed to.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997—CONFERENCE REPORT

The Senate resumed consideration of the conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on the conference report to accompany H.R. 3845, the appropriations for the District of Columbia. 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] and the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] are necessarily absent.

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 83, nays 15, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 270 Leg.]

YEAS—83

Abraham	Ashcroft	Biden
Akaka	Bennett	Bingaman

Bond	Glenn	McCain
Boxer	Graham	McConnell
Bradley	Grams	Mikulski
Breaux	Grassley	Moseley-Braun
Bryan	Gregg	Moynihan
Bumpers	Harkin	Murray
Byrd	Heflin	Nicksles
Campbell	Hollings	Nunn
Chafee	Hutchison	Pell
Coats	Inhofe	Pressler
Cochran	Inouye	Pryor
Cohen	Jeffords	Reid
Conrad	Johnston	Robb
Coverdell	Kassebaum	Rockefeller
Craig	Kempthorne	Roth
D'Amato	Kennedy	Santorum
Daschle	Kerrey	Sarbanes
DeWine	Kerry	Simon
Dodd	Kohl	Simpson
Domenici	Kyl	Specter
Dorgan	Leahy	Stevens
Exon	Levin	Thompson
Feinstein	Lieberman	Thurmond
Ford	Lott	Warner
Frahm	Lugar	Wyden
Frist	Mack	

NAYS—15

Baucus	Gorton	Shelby
Brown	Gramm	Smith
Burns	Hatch	Snowe
Faircloth	Helms	Thomas
Feingold	Lautenberg	Wellstone

NOT VOTING—2

Hatfield	Murkowski
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So the conference report was agreed to.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the conference report was agreed to, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, we are not in a quorum call, are we?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. No, we are not in a quorum call.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I am glad that we have adopted those two important appropriations conference reports.

I would like for us to continue to move forward and try to make progress now on a series of amendments with regard to the VA-HUD appropriations bill.

#### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3230

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, with regard to the conference report to accompany the Department of Defense authorization bill, I ask unanimous consent that at 10:30 on Monday, September 9, the Senate proceed to the consideration of the conference report to accompany the Defense authorization bill, that the conference report be considered as having been read; further, that there be 4 hours for debate to be equally divided between the chairman and the ranking minority member on the Armed Services Committee with an additional 1 hour under the control of Senator JOHNSTON, with the vote to occur on the conference report at 2:15 p.m. on Tuesday, September 10.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?