

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

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Texas for yielding me the additional 3 minutes. She had been presiding and has been waiting now to speak, and I will conclude briefly.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

MR. SPECTER. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. SPECTER pertaining to the introduction of S. 2154 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under a previous unanimous-consent agreement, the Chair now recognizes the Senator from Texas.

THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today with a sense of both joy and disappointment as I am being briefed by my staff about what is the purported agreement for the continuing resolution that will fund our country for the next year. There are, indeed, some very good parts of that bill. But I have to say that the distinguished Senator from New Hampshire, Senator GREGG, made a compelling speech this morning about many of the fine points of this bill that are atrocious, and talking about dealing with the administration, the administration which changed the negotiating points constantly throughout this process. I think it is a sad way that we are going to end this session, that the administration has come in at virtually the last hour and held the threat of shutting down Government and blaming the Republican Congress for doing it, in an effort to win things that have been lost on the floor already.

So, it is with mixed feelings that I rise to talk about what is in this bill, both good and bad. I am very pleased that we are going to satisfy the basic responsibilities that we must. We are going to support our troops in the Middle East and in Bosnia. But we are going to do it with \$1 billion less than we had hoped we could have in our defense budget because this is not a safe world. As we were sending troops into the Middle East—because in many ways it looks as if we did not have a clear policy on the Kurds, but nevertheless we sent troops in to reinforce—as we were doing it, the administration was asking us to cut the defense budget. We are going to be able to do the basic things that we need to do, but we are not making the plans for the future that we must make for our country to be secure from incoming ballistic missiles, in theaters, wherever our forces may be, to be secure from incoming ballistic missiles. We are not doing what we ought to be doing to plan for the future strength of our military so we will remain ready for any contingencies that might occur.

We are not planning as we should. I hope that next year, when the elections are over, we will be able to commit the amount of money and resources we need, first, to make sure that America stays secure and strong and, second, that we will protect our troops from disasters like the bombing that we saw just a few months ago in Saudi Arabia.

We are going to give pay raises to our young men and women in the military, who so richly deserve them, 3 percent pay raises. That is a good part of this bill. But we are not planning enough for their future with ballistic missile defenses and other major pieces of equipment and technologies that would look to the future so an incoming ballistic missile can be stopped before it goes into its downward track.

Mr. President, we are going to increase with this bill funding for breast cancer research, a long time coming. Women's diseases in this country have been made short shrift by Congresses of the past, but not in this Congress. This Congress has increased funding for breast cancer research and osteoporosis research, diseases that particularly afflict women in our country, and I am proud that we are doing that.

We are going to more fairly distribute the money for Amtrak in our country. I fought hard for that, and I appreciate the fact that all of us came together on a bipartisan basis to strengthen Amtrak for our country and to give all of the States that were told 2 months ago they would lose their service of Amtrak, including my State of Texas, but many States across the western part of our country.

We were told that we would have 90 days and these routes would be gone. Mr. President, 90 days is not enough for a State to be able to come in and add funding, resources to keep lines like this open. You have to have better planning. Most States have biennial legislatures. My State certainly does, and I wanted a 6-month extension to give all of us a chance to see if the States can come up with a better plan to help keep Amtrak service in our States, because I believe in a balanced transportation system, and I believe Amtrak is a major part of that.

Because I like the idea that we can have a bus feeder system into Amtrak stations so that people who do not have the mobility that many in our urban areas have will have access from the small communities of our country into the Amtrak stations, into our cities and our mass transit systems, and into our airports. That is what Amtrak can be if we can get a good system for Amtrak where the States and the Federal Government come together. So this bill does fund a 6-month extension for those important Amtrak lines that were told that they would close.

We are going to increase funding for medical research, including AIDS. AIDS is an epidemic in this country, and it is time that we realize it is hitting children, babies, as well as people from all walks of life. It is a tragedy,

and we should be increasing our commitment to finding out what causes this deadly virus so that we can do something to save the lives of innocent people, and we are doing that.

We are putting major resources into antiterrorism measures and also drug interdiction.

Mr. President, we have been hearing just recently in the last 6 months about incredible statistics showing that drug abuse is now going back up among our teenagers and, even worse, Mr. President, under teenagers—under teenagers. Our children, starting at the age of 9, are abusing drugs in this country. This is a crime, it is a disease, and we must get rid of it. So our bill will put the resources into that.

But I am very concerned about the illegal immigration bill and what the administration did in negotiating that bill. That bill passed this body months ago. We had a strong bipartisan effort for a bill that does give us the tools to stop illegal immigration into our country that costs our taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. It was told to us that the bipartisan bill would be signed. It was told to us by the President that he would sign the bill. Yet, after that representation was made, he came in with the threat that he would shut down Government and blame the Republicans for it and reopen the illegal immigration bill that had bipartisan support in this Congress.

It appears that that bill has been changed and some of the key provisions have been taken out, such that a person on welfare would be able to bring other immigrants into this country and supposedly vouch that they would not become dependent on taxpayer resources. A person who is dependent on taxpayer resources saying that they will support another person coming into our country and that they will not be supported by taxpayer resources, how naive can we be?

Mr. President, I am hoping that this Senate will be able to vote on a bill, that we have already passed in both Houses of Congress, on Monday that will put those key provisions back in to the illegal immigration bill so that we will have teeth in it and we will protect the taxpayers from people who would come to this country with their hand out rather than coming to this country in the spirit and tradition of the legal immigrants looking for the opportunity to do better for themselves and for this country.

I am very concerned that we would renegotiate the bill on illegal immigration that gives us the chance, finally, to say it means something to be a legal immigrant in this country, because if you come in illegally, there will be a price to pay and that price is that you will not be able to come into our country and seek citizenship for 10 years if you have broken the laws of our country by entering illegally.

I hope that we can pass the illegal immigration bill in its entirety on Monday and that we will not succumb

to the pressures from the White House to renegotiate a bill that the President said he would sign after it had already been agreed to by both Houses of this Congress on a bipartisan basis.

I commend our majority leader, Senator LOTT, who came in to his job quite suddenly just a few months ago without very much notice and, yet, has fought so hard to make Congress live up to its responsibility to the people of our country and pass the laws that will improve the lives of the people of our country and improve accountability to the people of our country. He has said we must fund our Government in a responsible way, and he set out to make that happen.

So with very little experience, our majority leader has done an incredible job of making sure that we do not let the people of our country down, but it has been made a very difficult chore for him by a constantly moving negotiation.

We talked about the great sports metaphor using the goal posts. As the distinguished Senator from Wyoming said yesterday, we not only moved the goal posts, we moved the whole game. We moved it out of the stadium by acceding to a President's wishes who would not say, "A deal is a deal," and kept saying, "A deal is a deal, but what more can I get?"

So, Mr. President, I hope that, if this continuing resolution passes, we can reform the procedures here and that we can have a President whose word is good so that we will be able to become accountable to the taxpayers of our country, let the taxpayers know that they are getting their money's worth and that the test will be able to stand the light of day. Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

Mr. SIMON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Illinois.

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, before I get into what I came on the floor to remark about, if I could just comment on the last part of what the distinguished Senator from Texas had to say.

While I would differ with her characterization of President Clinton's posture, her praise for Senator LOTT as majority leader is right on target. I had the privilege of serving with TRENT LOTT in the House and now here in the Senate. When a new leader comes in, there is a big question mark. Frankly, I did not know what kind of a majority leader he would be. My impression is he is serving his party and the Senate and the Nation very well. I, as one who was uncertain, now have the impression that Senator LOTT and his leadership is going to be very good for the Nation.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. SIMON. I will be pleased to yield to my colleague.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I just want to say that the statement that was just made by the Senator from Illinois is so typical of this man,

who is probably spending his last hours with us in the U.S. Senate. His voice of reason, his absolute integrity, and his willingness to say what he thinks about a Member of the other party, regardless of what it is, is always said in a civil way, and in this case I think very much on target. I just want to say that his distinguished voice will be much missed in the next convening of our U.S. Senate.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

Mr. SIMON. I thank my colleague from Texas. Let me add, it is typically gracious of her to have made those remarks.

MANDATORY SENTENCES

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, my reason for coming to the floor is to say that I have a hold, and will continue to have a hold, on a bill that deals with pornography for minors until the mandatory sentence provisions are removed. I have always opposed mandatory sentences, for reasons that I will spell out in a moment.

I do believe that we have to be tougher in this area of pornography and making it a Federal offense, when frequently interstate commerce is involved and cannot be proved, I think is a wise thing.

I differ with the idea of mandatory sentences. I have always opposed the mandatory minimums. Mandatory minimums are good politics but bad justice. Chief Justice William Rehnquist, with whom I do not always agree, has said, Congress is making a great mistake in passing mandatory minimums. I think he is correct.

Part of the mandatory minimums on this pornography bill—and all of us are saddened when we see the kind of pornography that occasionally is in our society—but, for example, it has a two-strikes-and-you're-out provision.

Let us just say an 18-year-old is involved in pornography with a 16-year-old. I do not for a moment defend that reprehensible conduct. But if we pass this bill as it is, that 18-year-old would be sentenced to prison for the rest of his life. I do not think we are in a position to judge the situation.

A long, long time ago, a man by the name of Plato wrote a book called Republic, in which he said, "Elect good judges"—maybe he said "select good judges;" I am not sure which it was—but then leave the sentences up to the judges. I think that is sound. That is what Chief Justice Rehnquist says we should do, and I believe that is what we should do.

So, as long as the mandatory minimums are in the bill, I will object. The idea of strengthening our laws against pornography I strongly favor. But I think the sentences should be up to the judges, guided by the sentencing commission.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR FRANK MURKOWSKI

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I see my distinguished colleague from Alaska on the floor. Let me just add, I inserted something in the RECORD not too long ago. Senator MURKOWSKI has been one of the leaders in trying to fashion responsible policies toward North Korea. The one area in the world where you have more troops facing each other, with virtually no contact between the two sides in terms of communication, is North Korea and South Korea. Senator MURKOWSKI, who does not get any votes in Alaska by providing leadership in this area, has rendered a service to this Nation by trying to guide us in a sensible direction. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. MURKOWSKI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I wonder if I might ask, are we under a 5-minute time limit for morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair advises the Senator from Alaska we are in a period for morning business with each Senator's remarks limited to 5 minutes.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may be allowed to speak in morning business for 10 minutes.

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

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Chair.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR PAUL SIMON

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I was hoping to respond to my good friend, the senior Senator from Illinois, with regard to his remarks on North Korea. Having had an opportunity to travel to North Korea with Senator SIMON, I have often reflected on the value of that trip and the understanding that was gained with a country that is probably more remote than any other country on Earth, a country that both the Senator from Illinois and I agree is under tremendous strain during the transition that is occurring in North Korea and the fact that that country is very dangerous.

But I just want to cite, in passing, to my friend from Illinois how much his presence will be missed in this body and what an extraordinary contribution the senior Senator from Illinois has made.

Mr. SIMON. Thank you.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I wish both he and his lady well, as they go on to fulfill other ambitions and desires in life.

You leave this Senate with a very proud record. And I am very pleased to have had your friendship and your association through the years. I wish you well, my friend.

Mr. SIMON. I thank you very much.