

INTERMODAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY ACT

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I simply wanted to stand and say that the Senator from Oklahoma, and especially the Senator from Missouri, who spoke earlier, have made important recommendations.

Yesterday, I believe I read in the Congress Daily the recommendations of the Senator from Missouri on the extension of the highway bill. I think the approach he suggests makes a great deal of good sense. And I hope most Members of Congress will understand in this late hour and rally around an approach that gets this done—allows the contracts to be let, and doesn't provide an interruption in the highway activities in our country. This is very important to this country.

So I commend the Senator from Missouri, the Senator from Montana, and so many others who are working on these issues, and hope all Members of the Senate feel, as we do, that this is something that must get done in the final days of this session.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from North Dakota and my colleague from Oklahoma for their kind comments. Unfortunately, at this time in the session, we probably need to get the concurrence of all of the Members, and not just most of them. It is something I hope that will not be prejudicial to any State.

I thank these Senators, and particularly the leadership of the Environment and Public Works Committee, and the leadership of the Senate for moving forward on a project that must be accomplished before we leave.

I thank the Chair.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998—CONFERENCE REPORT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now turn to the conference report on intelligence, with 20 minutes equally divided under the control of the Senator from Alabama and the Senator from Nebraska, with the Senator from New Jersey to be recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise in my capacity as chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence to support passage of the conference report on S. 858, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998. This important legislation authorizes funds for intelligence programs and related activities of the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, and other Government entities.

This conference report also represents the culmination of a lengthy and detailed review by the Intelligence Committee of the plans, policies, and programs contained in the President's budget submission for fiscal year 1998. In this regard, I wish to commend the

vice chairman of the committee, Senator KERREY from Nebraska, for his assistance in crafting this important legislation. Senator KERREY played a pivotal role in shaping this legislation, and I am pleased we were able to work together, in a bipartisan manner, to bring this legislation to the floor. It's a good bill; my colleagues should support it; and the President should sign it into law.

Let me also take this opportunity to commend Chairman GOSS, my counterpart on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, along with Mr. DICKS, the ranking minority member. We have developed what I consider to be a very positive and productive working relationship, which manifested itself in the smooth functioning and cordial atmosphere in which our conference deliberations took place.

Although Senate and House conferees completed action on this legislation 7 weeks ago, a joint decision was made not to file the conference report at that time. This was due to the fact that the conference committee on the Fiscal 1998 National Defense Authorization Act had yet to resolve all open issues. Given that funding for all intelligence programs and activities is, consistent with past practice, included in the intelligence authorization bill, we agreed to withhold bringing our bill to a vote until conference action on the Defense authorization bill was completed and the Defense authorization bill was voted on by the Senate.

The conferees on S. 858 took several important steps to improve this country's ability to collect, analyze, and produce intelligence about America's adversaries. We authorized funds above the President's request because we believe there are areas where additional resources are needed in this post-cold-war period of uncertainty. While the mission of our intelligence gathering organizations has not changed, the areas on which they must focus have become diverse and more challenging.

I am, therefore, particularly pleased that the conferees agreed with the Senate that additional resources should be added for advanced research and technology development and in five areas that I call the "five C's": counter-narcotics, counterterrorism, counterproliferation, counterintelligence, and covert action.

The conferees did not agree, however, to include Senate section 306, "Encouragement of Disclosure of Certain Information to Congress," in the final conference report. The 20 conferees from the Senate—the 19 members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and Senator STROM THURMOND, the distinguished chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee—voted unanimously in favor of the provision that would require the President to notify Federal employees and contractors with classified contracts that they are not violating any law, Executive order, regulation, or policy if they disclose information, including classified infor-

mation, evidencing wrongdoing to the committees of Congress with primary oversight of the Federal department or agency involved. A majority of the House conferees voted against the measure, but they agreed that the issue should be explored in more detail and they committed to producing legislation soon. Both committees will schedule hearings on the subject early next year. The conferees did include a declaration, in lieu of section 306, expressing the sense of Congress that Members of Congress have equal standing with the executive branch to receive classified information to carry out their constitutionally mandated oversight functions.

I am disappointed that we were unable to convince a majority of our House colleagues to support Senate section 306. Given the importance of congressional oversight of intelligence activities, the committee will devote significant attention to this important issue in the near future and I look forward to producing legislation that both Houses can agree on. I also hope that the President will work with the committees in drafting such legislation.

I urge the President to reconsider his threat to veto a provision that would allow individuals within his own administration to come forward to the appropriate committees of Congress with evidence of wrongdoing, rather than leaking it to the press, as seems to be the case today.

Again, Mr. President, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I rise in my capacity as vice chairman of the Intelligence Committee to urge passage of the intelligence authorization conference report. The House and Senate both produced good bills this year, they fit together quite well, and the conference committee under Chairman SHELBY's leadership worked out a compromise which I recommend to my colleagues. The outcome of the conference favors new technology, focuses on today's and tomorrow's hardest targets, and increases the usefulness of U.S. intelligence to its Government customers and to the public.

The legislation coming out of conference is not perfect, because it drops a provision which the Senate had strongly favored, the provision guaranteeing the right of public employees to share classified information about wrongdoing directly with the appropriate congressional committee. I will return in a moment to the failure to include this provision, and I will have more to say in the future about the necessity of such a provision.

Last month, while the conferees were meeting, the CIA was publicly celebrating the 50th anniversary of its creation. I salute its employees and I join President Clinton in praising their generous patriotism, their willingness to take risks for America, and their great professional skill. Their successes during the cold war, be they in space and