

they have jobs. We ought to know whether the children are all right.

Now what we find out is a whole lot of people who we thought would be in the most trouble, children who have children—and they don't have a high school degree, they don't have the job training, and they don't have the skills development—we were worried about whether they would be able to obtain employment and whether their children would be better off. We worried about people struggling with mental illness. We had an amendment out here on the floor called the "family violence option," and the administration still has not made clear to States that they should be able to get a good-faith waiver for those women who come out of battered homes and that wouldn't be counted against their work force participation requirements.

We worried about all these people. We didn't want women to be driven back into very dangerous homes because they were going to be cut off assistance, because they couldn't work, because they were being stalked, they couldn't go to job training, they had been traumatized, they suffered from posttraumatic stress syndrome from being beaten up over and over and over again. We didn't want them forced back into dangerous homes. A lot of that is happening around the country.

I am coming back with this amendment, I say to my colleague Senator STEVENS, not on this emergency supplemental bill, but on the first vehicle that is out here, I am going to come back with this amendment which essentially says to all of us as responsible policymakers, "Please, let's find out what's going on around the country; let's make sure that families aren't going hungry."

By the way, there has been a dramatic increase all around the country in demand for food shelves, a dramatic increase of families needing basic nutritional assistance, and you have to wonder whether or not part of the reason is people are getting cut off welfare assistance, but they are not being able to get the jobs, they are not finding the employment, and they are worse off.

Mr. President, we ought to know, and I know that this is a critically important question. I am very pleased that I know Senator MOYNIHAN will be a part of this effort, and I hope one way or the other I can get 100 votes so that all of us can get the data that we need and we know what is happening around the country. That is what we should do as responsible policymakers. I will be back with this amendment as soon as there is an appropriate vehicle. I thank the Chair.

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**SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR NATURAL DISASTERS AND OVERSEAS PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of S. 1768, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1768) making emergency supplemental appropriations for recovery from natural disasters, and for overseas peacekeeping efforts, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. STEVENS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from Alaska is recognized.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, today the Senate will consider the supplemental appropriations bill. It is a bill for emergency disaster needs and for overseas military operations.

Our Committee on Appropriations reported this bill, S. 1768, along with S. 1769, on Tuesday, March 17. S. 1769 provides funds for the International Monetary Fund. We reported both of these bills by one roll call vote, and that vote was 26-2. I call that to the attention of the Senate because it indicates a substantial agreement within our committee on the terms of these two bills.

Prior to the date we reported this bill, the administration had transmitted four supplemental or rescission messages to the Congress for 1998. This bill addresses each of those requests and makes other adjustments based on our committee's review of agency needs and priorities.

Our committee originated this bill ahead of the House Committee on Appropriations in order to complete action on these two urgent measures prior to the April recess. We have also done it to get ahead of some of the problems that are involved in the cloture votes before the Senate, because we just don't want this bill to be held up by the period of time that has to run if we do vote cloture on any other measure.

We have consulted with the House committee, and particularly the House committee chairman, on this approach, and I am pleased that the House understands what we are doing. The House committee will take up these two matters later this week. It is our hope that both of the bills will be in conference by the last week of March.

We have to have these bills passed before the recess. That is necessary, as I will explain later, as far as military implications and the disaster moneys that are involved. In order to do that, we must start this bill today and finish the bill before the cloture vote tomorrow, which is scheduled for 5:30 tomorrow evening.

S. 1768 makes appropriations for natural disaster relief and military operations. It provides \$2.5 billion in emergency funds. Pursuant to the budget agreement and the administration's request, these amounts are not offset by rescissions. Additionally, there are approximately \$190 million in new, non-emergency appropriations offset by specific rescissions or reductions in contract authority that are also addressed in this bill.

Most of those amounts are directed to meet the "Year 2000" computer crisis faced by several Federal agencies. Additional funds to ensure Federal computer systems are ready for the year 2000 will be provided in the 1999 fiscal year bill. We will present the bill later this year.

For Department of Defense operations, the committee recommends \$1.8 billion in emergency funding for ongoing missions in Bosnia and in Southwest Asia and for the natural disaster response.

The supplemental request for Bosnia was mandated by section 8132 of the 1998 defense appropriations bill, along with certifications and other submissions on the Bosnian mission.

The committee also received a fiscal year 1999 budget amendment for Bosnia. We will consider that amendment in the context of the fiscal year 1999 defense bill for the full year of 1999. We will not deal with 1999 funds for Bosnia in this bill.

The request for operations in Southwest Asia is approximately \$1.3 billion. That amount sustains the current force structure and operating tempo through September 30 of this year.

Let me say that again. The amount we have requested is sufficient only to maintain the existing deployment that has been made to contain Iraq. Should additional units be sent, we would have to once again ask for additional money.

Secretary Cohen, the Secretary of Defense, has not made any request for funding for the fiscal year 1999 yet; that is, no money has been requested for fiscal year 1999 for the deployment that is ongoing to contain Iraq in Southwest Asia.

As was discussed at our hearing on Friday, it is essential that our allies and regional partners in the gulf contribute more to this mission. Both Senator BYRD and I have spoken out on this before. At our committee markup before the Appropriations Committee, Senator BYRD offered his amendment, which is section 203 of this bill.

The Byrd amendment establishes a process for the administration to seek fuller participation by our allies and regional partners for the Southwest Asia mission and the costs associated with that mission.

The recommendation from the committee also includes \$672 million for disaster relief efforts by several Federal agencies including the Departments of Agriculture, Interior, the Army Corps of Engineers, and Transportation.

These amounts reflect the most recent estimates available to the committee from the Office of Management and Budget and increases that have been advocated by Senators for ongoing flooding in the Southeast and other needs. Some of these instances took place after the submission by the administration.

The administration has not yet requested additional funds for FEMA, the