

onto the defense authorization bill so that we can put those limited tax dollars that we do have available for our Nation's defense to work directly and exclusively for the soldiers, airmen, sailors, and marines who are willing to risk their lives for this Nation.

With that, Mr. President, there will be more to say tomorrow when the defense authorization report is formally considered by the Chamber.

I ask unanimous consent that the previous unanimous consent order be modified to accommodate the distinguished Senator from Arkansas.

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

The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator from Virginia for making that request. I will be very brief.

First, I compliment the Senator from Virginia. I came here to speak on another subject, but his remarks on what is the current topic about military readiness were very topical and timely. He made one very salient point that needs to be reinforced, and I would just like to lend my support because, as you know, I will not be here next year, and I regret it for a number of reasons, but one of the reasons is because I won't be here for the debate about just how bad off our Defense Department is on readiness, No. 1. No. 2, the question keeps coming back to me on why, if \$270 billion, which is this year's defense budget—or maybe that is the amount we appropriated for next year, \$270 billion—if that isn't enough when you consider the fact that that is more than all the defense expenditures of the rest of the world and twice as much as China and Russia and the so-called seven or eight rogue nations, you have to ask yourself, what are we doing with that \$270 billion?

When you add NATO to it, NATO and the United States combined spend well over twice as much as the rest of the world combined.

I wish I was going to be here for this so-called readiness debate. I have watched this thing happen about five times since I have been here, where we go along and all of a sudden the Defense Department comes over and says, "Our readiness is declining; our ability to meet the contingencies that we see are something we are not going to be able to meet with our existing manpower."

It makes me wonder, because then Senators begin to hear from their con-

stituents back home that the Joint Chiefs have said we are woefully inadequate in this department, woefully inadequate in that department. And among other things, General Shelton pointed out yesterday in the Armed Services Committee that one of the reasons they feel like their readiness is slipping is because they have things imposed on them to the tune of about \$4 billion or \$5 billion this year they didn't ask for.

When you consider the fact that our retention rate of pilots is 27 percent, and we are in the process of building about 700 new F-18s and 339 F-22s, you have to ask yourself, Who is going to fly those planes? If we can't compete with commercial airlines, then we ought to raise the salaries of our pilots.

It is absolutely unconscionable that we spend the amount of money that we do—hundreds of thousands of dollars—training pilots only to watch the commercial airlines take them away from us once they have been trained. The only way you are going to overcome that is to change the salaries of pilots so you can retain them.

I am like Senator ROBB, I will have more to say on this subject later.

I really came over to give another brief statement.

This is the eighth year I have been trying to kill the space station. Everybody knows that. I only have about 6 more days to speak my mind in the U.S. Senate.

I know that everybody is going to be extremely rhapsodic and excited to hear the good news, and that is, since I stood on the floor about 6 months ago and tried to kill the space station once again, the cost of it has only gone up \$8.3 billion. We are now headed into the second \$100 billion for the space station. You have to bear in mind that that is only if the Russians are ready, for example, with a service module by April of 1999, and even NASA itself says they are not likely to be ready until the fall of 1999.

When I tell you that we are soaring past the \$25 billion mark right now, and we will probably be at \$30 billion by April of next year as best we can project, and you understand that the Russians are not going to be ready with a service module by next April as anticipated, and if it is next fall, just keep adding a billion here and a billion there.

Mr. President, all I can do is to tell my children and grandchildren I did my best to stop this thing before it got

completely out of control, and I failed miserably. I never received more than 35 votes, maybe 40 at one time.

I have to admit, it is extremely gratifying to come over here and tell you, "I told you so." There is just nothing politicians like better than to be proven right.

I will be down in Arkansas watching C-SPAN occasionally. Senator Pryor tells me he is so happy now he doesn't even watch C-SPAN anymore. He says sometimes it just ruins his whole day. I will be down there and probably watching C-SPAN as I watch the cost of the space station soar from \$100 billion—it is about \$104 billion right now—right on up to \$150 billion and watch the U.S. Senate put their imprimatur on it and say, "Sic 'em, tiger; go at it, and we'll just keep spending the money."

It doesn't make any difference. I can tell you right now it does not matter what the space station winds up costing; we are going to build it. Nobody can tell you why, but we are going to.

I will have a little more to say on this the first opportunity tomorrow or Friday.

I yield the floor, and I assume we will stand in recess.

RECESS UNTIL 9 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands in recess under the previous order.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 5:53 p.m., recessed until Thursday, October 1, 1998, at 9 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate September 30, 1998:

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

KENNETH W. KIZER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR HEALTH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS. (REAPPOINTED)

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

MATTHEW L. KAMBIC, 0000
JAMES G. PIERCE, 0000

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

RICHARD A. GRAFMAYER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 30, 2000. VICE HARLAN MATTHEWS, RESIGNED.

GERALD M. SHEA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 30, 2004. (REAPPOINTMENT)