

STROM THURMOND NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999—CONFERENCE REPORT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the conference report.

Mr. CONRAD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I yield myself such time as remains on our side in the stead of the Democratic leader, as manager on this issue.

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

Mr. CONRAD. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I rise in support of the defense authorization conference report that is before us today.

In particular, I would like to thank the conferees for their support of an amendment I offered in the Senate dealing with Russia's tactical nuclear weapons. I was pleased to have the sponsorship of Senators KEMPTHORNE, KENNEDY, BINGAMAN, and LEVIN when this amendment was passed by the Senate in June. I would like to thank them again for their support.

Mr. President, my amendment focuses on an issue that I believe has received too little attention. That is the question of the tactical nuclear weapons in the Russian arsenal. Those weapons, that are thousands in number, are among the most vulnerable to acquisition by terrorists and dictators.

The conferees' approval of my amendment is timely. Recent stories in the Washington Post have indicated that the international terrorist, Bin Laden, may have made attempts to purchase Russian nuclear weapons and that Iraq's nuclear program is much further along than previously expected. Unfortunately, the chances are increasing that the Bin Ladens and Saddam Husseins of the world may acquire nuclear weapons. That danger increases as Russia's economic meltdown continues. As Russian soldiers go unpaid and funding for security systems comes under pressure, Russia's massive tactical nuclear arsenal becomes the world's best source of warheads for terrorists and others who wish this world ill.

Mr. President, the threat of tactical nuclear warheads being sold and the threat of them being stolen is growing.

This chart refers to a CIA comment on the "loose nukes" question. As they responded to an inquiry from my office:

We cannot rule out the possibility that a small number of nuclear warheads are missing. The Russian nuclear accounting system is archaic and inefficient. Years of crisis have left once-elite troops impoverished. . . . We take claims of lost warheads seriously.

On the question of tactical nuclear warheads, I offer these observations—the first from the Congressional Research Service:

Questions exist about the locks employed on [Russia's tactical nuclear weapons] and possible breaches in security at storage facilities. Many now believe that the risk of acquisition or use by rebels, criminals, or

rogue military leaders may be greater for tactical nuclear weapons than it is for strategic nuclear weapons.

From the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, I quote:

Because of their larger numbers, smaller size, and in some cases simple design and relative ease of employment, non-strategic nuclear weapons pose more difficult command, control, and safety concerns than do strategic nuclear weapons.

Mr. President, the point is that there is a threat. There is a threat of these thousands of tactical nuclear weapons that the Russians still have in their arsenal being diverted to the uses of those who are a danger to all of us. Terrorist use of a tactical nuclear warhead could be devastating.

This is a comparison to what happened out in Oklahoma City. That fertilizer bomb was .0002 of a kiloton. The "Fat Man" atomic device dropped in 1945 was 14 kilotons. The smaller tactical weapons of today are 10 kilotons. The larger tactical nuclear weapons of today have a yield of as much as 300 kilotons.

I think we need to understand the destructive potential of these weapons in the Russian arsenal.

Russia's tactical nuclear arsenal is still massive. We can go back to 1991. The United States had roughly 15,000 tactical nuclear weapons at that time; the Soviet Union had 20,000. If we look today, the United States is down to 1,600 tactical nuclear weapons; the Russians still have from 7,000 to 12,000.

My colleagues know that there are treaties that deal with strategic systems and conventional systems. There is nothing on tactical nuclear systems. That is why I believe the amendment that is in this bill is important.

I believe it is time for Congress to:

No. 1, go on record as concerned about the significant "loose nuke" dangers associated with Russia's tactical nuclear stockpile and its growing strategic relevance;

No. 2, call for the Russians to make good on the 1991 and 1992 Gorbachev and Yeltsin promises to deeply reduce tactical nuclear weapons, just as the United States has followed through in good faith on President Bush's promises in September of 1991;

And, No. 3, get more information from the Pentagon and the intelligence community about this threat.

This chart perhaps sums it up best. The bottom line on Russian tactical nuclear arms is, to quote General Eugene Habiger, former Commander in Chief of the U.S. Strategic Command, on March 31, 1998:

It is time for us to get very serious about tactical nuclear weapons.

Indeed, it is time for us to get very serious. This amendment is a beginning.

I thank the Armed Services Committee for their support for this amendment.

I would like to take a moment more to thank those members of the Armed Services Committee who will no longer

be in the positions they currently occupy. We are going to miss Senator DIRK KEMPTHORNE of Idaho, a wonderful man, somebody who has become a good friend. I am going to miss him very much. And Senator DAN COATS will also be retiring, and is also a terrific person. DAN COATS has been in many ways the conscience of the Senate, somebody we can look to time and time again for moral leadership.

Of course, I also want to recognize the chairman. This is the last bill that we will have before us with Senator THURMOND as chairman of the committee.

Senator THURMOND, we want to recognize the enormous contribution that you have made to this body and the enormous assistance that you have provided to all of us.

I also want to recognize Senator GLENN who will be retiring. He will be going into space. Senator GLENN has been rock solid on these issues. We are certainly going to miss him in this Chamber.

Senator THURMOND is not leaving us, thank goodness. I have a feeling Senator THURMOND will probably be here long after I have left and perhaps long after most other Members have left. He has been able to stay in this Chamber for longer than anyone else in our history. Even though he is stepping down as chairman of the Armed Services Committee, I have no doubt that Senator THURMOND will continue to lead us in many other ways.

I want to recognize those who will be either changing their roles or leaving the Senate as we consider this bill for the final time this year.

I thank the Chair.

I yield the floor.

Mr. THURMOND addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I wish to thank the able Senator from North Dakota for his kind remarks and commend him for the great service that he has rendered to the Senate during his tenure.

Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on this defense bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I yield any time I have remaining.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back. The question is on agreeing to the conference report. On this question, the yeas and nays have been ordered, and the clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from Ohio (Mr. GLENN) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 293 Leg.]

YEAS—96

Abraham	Enzi	Lieberman
Akaka	Faircloth	Lott
Allard	Feinstein	Lugar
Ashcroft	Ford	Mack
Baucus	Frist	McCain
Bennett	Gorton	McConnell
Biden	Graham	Mikulski
Bingaman	Gramm	Moynihan
Bond	Grams	Murkowski
Boxer	Grassley	Murray
Breaux	Gregg	Nickles
Brownback	Hagel	Reed
Bryan	Harkin	Reid
Bumpers	Hatch	Robb
Burns	Helms	Roberts
Byrd	Hollings	Rockefeller
Campbell	Hutchinson	Roth
Chafee	Hutchison	Santorum
Cleland	Inhofe	Sarbanes
Coats	Inouye	Sessions
Cochran	Jeffords	Shelby
Collins	Johnson	Smith (NH)
Conrad	Kempthorne	Smith (OR)
Coverdell	Kennedy	Snowe
Craig	Kerrey	Specter
D'Amato	Kerry	Stevens
Daschle	Kohl	Thomas
DeWine	Kyl	Thompson
Dodd	Landrieu	Thurmond
Domenici	Lautenberg	Torricelli
Dorgan	Leahy	Warner
Durbin	Levin	Wyden

NAYS—2

Feingold Wellstone

NOT VOTING—2

Glenn Moseley-Braun

The conference report was agreed to. Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the conference report was agreed to.

Mr. LEVIN. 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 (Mr. SMITH of Oregon). The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
H.R. 10

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 10, the financial services modernization bill.

Mr. GRAMM. Reserving the right to object.

Mr. SHELBY. Reserving the right to object.

Mr. GRAMM. Will the Senator yield? Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator withhold?

Mr. LOTT. I withhold.

INTERNET TAX FREEDOM ACT—
MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending question is the motion to proceed to S. 442.

Mr. GRAMM. Will the Senator yield? Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. GRAMM. Is the unanimous consent request of the majority leader to proceed to H.R. 10?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That request is not pending at this moment.

The question is the motion to proceed. Is there further debate on that?

Mr. GRAMM. Reserving the right to object, the motion before the Senate is a motion to proceed to the Internet tax bill; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. GRAMM. I have no objection to proceeding to it, but I do object to proceeding to H.R. 10.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to agreeing to the motion to proceed to S. 442? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
H.R. 10

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 10, the financial services modernization bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. GRAMM. I object.

Mr. SHELBY. I object.

FINANCIAL SERVICES ACT OF
1998—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LOTT. In light of the objection, I now move to proceed to H.R. 10, and send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 588, H.R. 10, the financial services bill.

Trent Lott, Alfonso D'Amato, Wayne Allard, Y. Tim Hutchinson, Dan Coats, Rick Santorum, Robert F. Bennett, Jon Kyl, Gordon Smith, Craig Thomas, Pat Roberts, John Warner, John McCain, Frank H. Murkowski, Larry E. Craig, and William V. Roth, Jr.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, this cloture vote, then, will occur on Monday. All Members will be notified as to the exact time of the vote when it becomes available.

I want to say at this point, I certainly understand the concerns of the

Senator from Texas and the Senator from Alabama. I have talked to them several times, and I know that they still have concerns about what is in this bill. I am assuming they will be working with the chairman of the committee and other Senators that have concerns to work something out. I believe we are at a historic point with regard to financial services. That can be completed if everybody will work together in this week that we have left.

I had delayed filing cloture earlier, including Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, because there were objections on both sides of the aisle about various and sundry things, but also I wanted to give everybody time to work through their problems. I really felt like that until we pushed this forward and had the cloture on a motion to proceed, the remaining problems were not going to be worked out.

I, again, call upon Senators on both sides of the aisle and the chairman and the ranking member to work with the Senators that have concerns from both parties so that we can get this completed.

This is the first time we will have had major financial services reform and modernization since 1932. We need to get it done. So I hope that can be accomplished. And I urge the Senators to keep working and keep me posted on the progress that is being made.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

Mr. LOTT. I now withdraw the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

KING COVE HEALTH AND SAFETY
ACT OF 1997

Mr. LOTT. Under the previous provisions of the consent agreement of June 25, 1998, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate S. 1092, the Cold Bay and King Cove bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1092) to provide for a transfer of land interests in order to facilitate surface transportation between the cities of Cold Bay, Alaska, and King Cove, Alaska, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LOTT. For the information of all Senators, this bill has a time agreement of no more than 6 hours. I have had indications that it could be maybe done in 3 hours or less. I understand there is only one amendment in order that may require a vote along with the passage. Therefore, additional votes are expected during today.

We will try to work around scheduling conflicts. But I would expect a vote or two on this, and then for us to go to the Internet tax bill, hopefully, with