

as proof that the country they served values their contribution to its cause.

We cannot restore the health of those Americans who incurred a disability as a result of their military service. It is within our power, however, to authorize a memorial that would clearly signal the Nation's gratitude to all whose disabilities serve as a living reminder of the toll war takes on its victims.

Under the terms of this legislation, the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation would be solely responsible for raising the necessary funding. Our amendment explicitly requires that no Federal funds be used to pay any expense for the memorial's establishment.

I urge my colleagues to join me and Senators DASCHLE, COVERDELL, CLELAND, and KERREY in support of this legislation. America's disabled veterans, of whom Senator CLELAND himself is one of our most distinguished, deserve a lasting tribute to their sacrifice. They honored us with their service; let us honor them with our support today.

#### ITM SYNGAS PROGRAM

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Washington, The Chairman of the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, for adding \$1.4 million to the Department of Energy's competitively awarded, cost-shared ITM Syngas program, specifically the "Engineering Development of Ceramic Membrane Reactor Systems for Converting Natural Gas to Hydrogen and Synthesis Gas for Liquid Transportation Fuels" project. This important high-risk, high-impact gas-to-liquids research and development project will convert domestic remote and off-shore natural gas to synthesis gas, resulting in lower cost production and cleaner alternative fuels. This program also promises to create new markets for U.S. domestic resources and extend the useful life of the Alaskan North Slope oil fields and the trans-Alaskan pipeline system.

The ITM Syngas research and development effort is a complex, high risk undertaking by the Department of Energy and its industry, national laboratory and university partners. As with any complex technological undertaking, the Department of Energy and its ITM Syngas team have had to increase the scope of the initial phase of the program and add a university partner to ensure the project's long-term success.

This \$1.4 million is in addition to the budget request for fiscal year 2000 of \$2.5 million that is in the Fossil Energy, Gas, Emerging Processing Technology Applications and the Energy Supply, Hydrogen Research program. The total DOE funding for the ITM Syngas program in fiscal year 2000 is \$3.9 million.

The addition of \$1.4 million in fiscal year 2000 will allow approximately \$600,000 to be allocated to the first phase of this project to fund activities that could not have been anticipated

when the program commenced last year. The remaining \$800,000 will allow the second phase of the ITM Syngas to be accelerated, allowing future costs to be avoided.

This program brings together the Department of Energy, U.S. industry—large and small—our national laboratories and research universities. Again, I want to thank the Senator from Washington for his efforts to ensure that from the earliest phases of this important research and development effort, ITM Syngas is a success.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, there do not seem to be any amendments to the bill that are ripe for debate and for disposition at this point.

Did the Senator from Virginia have any further comments?

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Washington for his offer. Given the absence of other Senators who I know want to debate this particular issue, I look forward to resuming that debate when the Senate returns to session on September 8.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I don't think there is any further business in connection with the interior appropriations bill.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I therefore ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### REORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I would like to speak for just a moment to alert my fellow Senators and others about an important development this evening which I think we categorize as another piece of good news, in addition to the adoption of the conference report on the tax reform just concluded by the Senate.

Even though the conference report is in the process of being signed and has not yet been filed, I think I can advise my colleagues that later on this evening the House and Senate Armed Services Committees will have concluded their conference report, including the important revisions of the Department of Energy which follow generally along the lines of the so-called Rudman report recommendations and the amendment that Senators MURKOWSKI and DOMENICI and I filed earlier in this session to reorganize the Department of Energy.

The House and Senate had both passed versions of that reform of the Department of Energy. The matter was concluded today in the House-Senate conference report of the Armed Services bill, and that is the vehicle by which the reorganization of the Department of Energy will occur.

Just to recapitulate a little bit about how this came about, if you will recall, as a result of the espionage that resulted in the Chinese receiving significant secrets about nuclear weapons of the United States and the possibility that some of that information had come out of our National Laboratories, there was a great deal of study of the security at our National Labs and in the weapons program generally of the Department.

The President's own Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, the so-called PFIAB, headed by former Senator Warren Rudman, issued a report, really a scathing indictment of the Department of Energy, its past security policies or lack of security, and its inability to reorganize itself notwithstanding Secretary Richardson's efforts to begin to reorganize the Department. What it said was the Department of Energy was incapable of reorganizing itself. They reiterated a long list of things which the Department had failed to do, which it had failed to put into place, and described the whole situation at the Department as such that it was impossible to expect them to be able to do this on their own.

Therefore, the Rudman commission recommended strongly the Congress do this reorganization by legislation. That is when Senators DOMENICI, MURKOWSKI and I reoriented our amendment to follow closely the Rudman commission recommendations and introduced that as an amendment before this body.

It was originally introduced to the Armed Services bill. It was later put on the Intelligence bill instead. But the Armed Services Committee took the amendment and has worked it now in the conference committee, as I said. As a result of their agreement tonight, there will be a reorganization of the Department, assuming the President signs the Defense authorization bill, which I am sure he would want to do.

Reorganization was agreed to in principle by Secretary Richardson, although there were many things he wanted to change in the detail of it. But what it will do in a nutshell is to establish within the Department of Energy a semiautonomous agency that will have the accountability and the responsibility for managing our nuclear weapons and complex including the National Laboratories. It will be headed by a specific person, an Under Secretary, who will be responsible to the Secretary directly and to a Deputy Secretary if the Secretary so desires.

While, of course, the Secretary of Energy remains in general control of all of his Department, including the semiautonomous agency, on a day-to-day basis it is anticipated this agency will be operated by the Under Secretary, who is responsible for its functions. It will involve security, intelligence, counterintelligence, all of the different weapons, the Navy nuclear program and the other things at the laboratory that relate to our nuclear weapons. To a large extent it will remove the influences of other parts of the Department