

That, Mr. President, summarizes the process pretty well. Military readiness and the situation in Colombia are not in and of themselves important enough to warrant support for this spending bill. It seems this Senate must have its pork. It must have its \$25 million for a Customs Service training facility at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, a site most certainly chosen for its bucolic charm and operational attributes rather than for parochial reasons. It must have its \$225,000 for the Nebraska State Patrol Digital Distance Learning project. It must have over \$3 million earmarked for anti-doping activities at the 2002 Olympics, in addition to the \$8 million for Defense Department support of these essential national security activities on the ski slopes of Utah. It must have \$300,000 for Indian tribes in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Minnesota. The hard-working taxpayers of America deserve better.

Those of us who had the misfortune of witnessing one of the most disgraceful and blatant explosions of pork-barrel spending in the annals of modern American parliamentary history, the ISTE bill of 1998, should be astounded to see the projects funded in this emergency spending bill:

\$1.2 million for the Paso Del Norte International Bridge in Texas;

\$9 million for the US 82 Mississippi River Bridge in Mississippi;

\$2 million for the Union Village/Cambridge Junction bridges in Vermont;

\$5 million for the Naheola Bridge in Alabama;

\$3 million for the Hoover Dam Bypass in Arizona and Nevada;

\$3 million for the Witt-Penn Bridge in New Jersey; and

\$12 million for the Florida Memorial Bridge in Florida.

These, Mr. President, are but the tip of the iceberg—an iceberg that shall not stand in the way of the icebreaker added to this bill, albeit for more credible reasons than the vast majority of member add-ons.

As I stated earlier, tracking the process by which the bill came before us was a truly Byzantine experience. The addition of \$600,000 for the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System in South Dakota serves as sort of a tribute to the unusual path down which this legislation has traveled. The most skilled legislative adventurers would be hard pressed to follow the trail this bill followed before arriving at its destination here on the floor of the Senate.

I cannot emphasize enough the significance of piling billions of dollars in pork and unrequested earmarks into a bill that was categorized for budgetary purposes as "emergency." Consider the distinction between emergency spending essential for the preservation of liberty and to deal with genuine emergencies that cannot wait for the usual annual appropriations process, and the manner in which Congress abuses that concept and undermines the integrity of the budgeting process. When I review

an emergency spending measure and read earmarks like \$2.2 million for the Anchorage, Alaska Senior Center; \$500,000 for the Shedd Aquarium/Brookfield Zoo for science education programs for local school students; \$1 million for the Center for Research on Aging at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago; and \$8 million for the City of Libby in Montana, plus another \$3.5 million for the Saint John's Lutheran Hospital in Libby, I am more than a little perplexed about the propriety of our actions here.

Is the American public expected to believe that a spending bill essential for national security should include emergency funding for Dungeness fishing vessel crew members, U.S. fish processors in Alaska, and the Buy N Pack Seafoods processor in Hoonah, Alaska, research and education relating to the North Pacific marine ecosystem, and the lease, operation and upgrading of facilities at the Alaska SeaLife Center, and the \$7 million for observer coverage for the Hawaiian long-line fishery and to study interaction with sea turtles in the North Pacific. Finally, and not to belabor the point, is the \$1 million for the State of Alaska to develop a cooperative research plan to restore the crab fishery truly a national security imperative?

When the bill was on the floor of the Senate, my friend and colleague from Texas, Senator GRAMM, referred to the sadly typical smoke and mirrors budgeting gimmickery pervasive in the legislation. I am always disturbed when such budgeting gimmicks designed to prevent Congress from complying with the revenue and spending levels agreed to in the Budget Resolution are employed. While I am grateful that a deal was struck by which they will be reversed in another bill, the use of such gimmicks is a betrayal of our responsibility to spend the taxpayers' dollars responsibly and enact laws and policies that reflect the best interests of all Americans. It is a betrayal of the public trust that is essential to a working democracy.

The bill, as currently written and signed into law, waives the budget caps to allow for more discretionary spending. It also waived the firewall in the budget resolution between defense and nondefense spending on outlays. The end result would be that Congress would have the freedom to move the \$2.6 billion the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee did not spend on much-needed readiness into non-defense spending.

The recently-passed legislation further changes current law and shifts the payment date for SSI, the Supplemental Security Income program, from October back to September. What that would do is shift money into fiscal year 2000. In the process, it would allow \$2.4 billion more be spent in fiscal year 2001 by spending that same amount of money in the previous year. The legislation also includes the gimmick of moving the pay date for veterans' com-

pensation and pensions from fiscal year 2001 to fiscal year 2000. Both of these provisions are further examples of the irresponsible budget gimmickery that allows the Congress to spend more without any accountability. I am thankful that a commitment was made to reverse these decisions in subsequent legislation; I abhor the fact that they will almost certainly be used again in the future.

To conclude, the Military Construction and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill passed prior to recess, and without members of the Senate having a realistic opportunity to review that multibillion dollar commitment, is a travesty, a thorough slap in the face of all Americans concerned about fiscal responsibility, national security, the scourge of drugs on our streets, and the integrity of the representation they send to Congress. We should be ashamed of ourselves for passing this bill. Unfortunately, shame continues to elude us, and the country, and our democracy, is poorer for that flaw in our collective character.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read some of the names of those who lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is in session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue this fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

July 11, 1999:

Thomas Erwin, 36, Oklahoma City, OK; Bernard Harrison, 17, Baltimore, MD; Anthony L. Holt, 28, Chicago, IL; Judy Holt, 47, Dallas, TX; Christopher F. James, 34, Oklahoma City, OK; Byron Sanders, 17, Baltimore, MD; Eugene Smith, 21, Charlotte, NC; Nakia Walker, 25, Washington, DC; Unidentified male, 23, Newark, NJ.

FISCAL YEAR 2001 LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS AND THE MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, on June 30, the Senate passed S. 2553, the Fiscal Year 2001 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill, by a vote of 52-43. I voted against this measure because of my belief that it provides an unjustified increase in federal spending and employs a variety of gimmicks that are meant to hide the true size of its costs.

As my colleague from Texas, Senator GRAMM, recently pointed out, the fiscal year 2001 Labor-HHS bill increases discretionary spending by more than 20