

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate amendment be amended with the language at the desk, and that the amendment be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; further, that the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House, and that the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1616) was agreed to, as follows:

Strike section 404 of the Senate amendment.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore appointed Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. BYRD, Mr. GREGG, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Mr. COCHRAN conferees on the part of the Senate.

**PROVIDING FOR MEMBERS ON THE PART OF THE SENATE OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 162, submitted earlier today by Senators DODD and MCCONNELL.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will state the title of the resolution.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 162) providing for Members on the part of the Senate of the Joint Committee on Printing and the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements and supporting documents relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 162) was agreed to.

(The text of the resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Submitted Resolutions.")

**ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2001**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 12 noon, Monday, September 24. I further ask unanimous consent that on Monday, immediately following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**PROGRAM**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on Monday, September 24, 2001, the Senate will convene at 12 noon and consider H.R. 2603, the Jordan Free-Trade Act, under a 2-hour time agreement, followed by a voice vote on the act.

At 2 p.m., the Senate will vote on the nomination of Kirk Van Tine to be general counsel to the Department of Transportation.

Following this vote, the Senate will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill under the direction of Senators LEVIN and WARNER.

Rollcall votes are expected on the amendments to the DOD bill all afternoon Monday.

**ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment following the statement during morning business by the Senator from Alabama, Mr. SESSIONS.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator is recognized.

**DEFENSE BUDGETS**

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, we have for the most part today been dealing with the Defense authorization bill. As a member of the Armed Services Committee, it is something we wrestled with for some time. We realize how tight our budget is, and I thought it would be important for those Americans who care about those things, that remnant out there, that we give them some perspective as to where we are, what this authorization bill would mean, and how it would affect our Armed Forces.

In the early 1990s, our defense budget was as high as \$326 billion, as I recall, well over \$300 billion. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, President Bush commenced a decline in that budget. He had projected it out over a certain number of years and then it

began to flatten out at a fairly substantial rate over \$300 billion.

What happened was, in our glee over the collapse of the Soviet Union, we allowed that budget to continue downward. We reached as low as \$286 billion, I believe, in the mid-1990s, \$20 billion more or less than former President Bush had proposed, and as a result we reduced our personnel very rapidly.

We had problems in a number of areas funding our budget, and as a result, the military began to suffer. In particular, what suffered was our plans to recapitalize defense in America. I am talking about ships and planes and equipment that is pretty expensive. We paid the electric bills. We trained our men and women in uniform. We paid their salaries. We did the things we needed to do, but as one naval officer said, we created a bow wave out in front of the ship of increased capitalization needs. So we have been doing that for some years.

Gradually, we made a few increases since I have been in the Senate in the last 3 years, an increase in our defense budget, but it has not been much.

President Bush ran on the promise that he would do more for defense. He said, "Help is on the way." We remember that phrase.

We do indeed, this year, have a Defense appropriations bill that shows the largest increase in probably well over a decade. I know the President pro tempore is so familiar with these numbers, there is no need for me to recall them for him. We made some progress, and as I read this budget, this authorization bill, we will take defense spending from \$296 billion last year to \$328. If you count the supplemental of \$6 billion, we have a \$35 billion increase in defense, which amounts to a little over around 10 percent of the budget.

I thought we would have more impact, but I have not seen it. It strikes me that presumably the money has gone to do the things we need to do. We promised and committed to higher pay and better medical care, as we promised our men and women in uniform. They received that, and they are pleased with it. Retention and recruitment and morale is up, for which we can certainly celebrate, but it has left us not nearly as much as we had hoped we would have to begin to do better about capitalization.

For example, it was not too many years ago we were looking for a 600-ship Navy. We are now down to around 315 ships. We have ships going out of service every year because of age and lack of serviceability, and the number of ships coming on are less. So at the present rate, we can expect our fleet to fall well below 300. Maybe that is wise. I doubt it. I think we are getting a bit thin. I say that simply to say the money is not there in this budget to build ships at the rate it needs to.

I served as the ranking member on the Sea Power Subcommittee and dealt with those numbers, along with Senator KENNEDY, and we did the best we