

Other Cuts: The bill also cuts programs to train state and federal law enforcement and security personnel by nearly \$50 million, including a \$7 million cut to the Explosives Training Initiative and \$42 million to embassy security.

A supplemental appropriations bill would be necessary to provide funding adequate to meet the homeland security needs of localities across the country in advance of any military action in Iraq.

ILLINOIS

States and localities are still waiting for the funds promised to them. The States have legitimate concerns. There's a lot of brave talk about fighting terrorism, but when it comes to paying for it, this administration has not delivered.

In my home State of Illinois, we have an Illinois Terrorism Task Force (TTF). This is a collective body representing 50 agencies addressing emergency needs throughout the state of Illinois. They have told me that a minimum of \$100 million is required to cover security expenses in Illinois for FY03.

The Terrorism Task Force originally asked for \$320 million in federal funding and then scaled back its request to the current level (\$100 million) in anticipation of federal budget cuts.

According to the TTF director Mike Chamness, these funds are crucial to Illinois' ability to properly address the threat of terror.

Without these dollars, programs designed to secure Illinois will cease to exist.

First responders will be ill-equipped and prepared to address emergency situations.

Major items in the TTF's \$100 million request include:

\$25 million for first responders' respiration equipment upgrade (nuclear, biological, and chemical).

\$14.4 million for communication systems (interoperable communications equipment for police, firefighters, and state/local emergency operations centers).

Elite Terror Response Team: under current funding Federal monies have not been available to send teams for the "Elite Response" training.

It is imperative that my home state of Illinois—like every other State in this nation—provides their front-line first responders the best equipment, the essential tools, and the finest training available. We rely on their readiness and should expect nothing less. These funds are needed sooner, not later.

CITY OF CHICAGO

Now let me tell you about the funding needs for Homeland Security in the City of Chicago.

The City of Chicago had made an assessment of total budget needs for homeland security at around \$175 million.

The top ticket item in Chicago is the Chicago public safety radio migration plan which is estimated to cost \$80 million.

The migration allows for all agencies to communicate in an interoperable manner on a daily basis without major equipment modification or complicated system changes.

Among other important needs are:

Emergency Responder Training and Equipment—\$7.9 million. CPD is requesting first responder training, first responder equipment and secondary responders unit training.

Emergency Operations Center Expansion—\$10 million. This expansion will provide incident manager with real-time live video, satellite imagery, building X, Y, and Z coordinates and other state of the art technologies.

Hazardous Materials Equipment—\$7 million. The Chicago Department of Environment is requesting hazardous materials response equipment for any large, widespread or egregious hazardous incident.

NEED TO DO MUCH MORE THAN DUCT TAPE & PLASTIC

We can't stand up and say we're truly doing everything we can to ensure that our cities and counties, bridges and roads, airplanes and trains are as secure as possible and that our fellow Americans are safe on our soil if this bill is what represents the level of our commitment to fund programs to ensure homeland security.

I fully expect the President to come back to Congress and ask for additional funds to support our military needs overseas. Without question, we must address these needs. But it would be unconscionable to increase funding for military activities in Iraq and neglect our security needs at home. If war comes with Iraq, the battle lines will be expanded to include our country. We simply cannot afford to leave American citizens unprotected.

ATF/FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT PROVISION (RE: CITY OF CHICAGO LAWSUIT VS. GUN INDUSTRY)

Another provision slipped in to the appropriations bill at the last minute involves the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Freedom of Information Act.

This provision would be an enormous setback to the efforts of state and local governments to combat illegal firearms trafficking and would undermine the very purpose of the Freedom of Information Act.

The Freedom of Information Act entitles citizens to open access to government records and prevents the government from shielding its activities from public scrutiny.

The City of Chicago filed a FOIA request to obtain information from an ATF trace database. A U.S. District Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit ordered the ATF to release these records.

In response to these rulings, the gun industry went to the House Appropriations Committee and asked for a rider to prevent the ATF from complying with this FOIA request.

This provision sets a dangerous precedent because it essentially directs a federal agency not to comply with a federal court ruling, thus undermining the very purpose of FOIA. If litigants can be denied information under FOIA through legislative action—even when a federal court has upheld the request—FOIA itself is in jeopardy.

There is no cost justification for this provision. The City of Chicago demonstrated in its litigation that it would take the ATF less than 10 minutes to assemble and release the data it has requested.

I was joined by Senators Reed and Kennedy in urging that this provision not be included, and I am disappointed that it was.

In the past, I have challenged the Senate and the President to back up the high priority we have placed on the global AIDS pandemic with adequate resources.

[Senator DeWine has even called me a "bull dog" on this issue. I took that as a great compliment.]

This 2003 appropriations process demonstrated that the Senate does indeed recognize the need for increased resources to fight global AIDS.

In December, I, and 15 other Senators, sent a letter to appropriators asking them to increase overall AIDS spending by 50 percent over 2002 levels. At the time we were looking for an increase of \$236 million.

While facing \$9-\$10 billion in cuts throughout the FY 2003 appropriations bill, the Foreign Operations Subcommittee responded to this request, and managed to find an additional \$41 million for global AIDS.

The Senate Labor, Health and Human Services Subcommittee agreed to match House approved levels, increasing the funds going to the CDC's Global AIDS Program by about \$15 million.

While this increase of \$56 million was welcome, unfortunately, it was not enough.

Senator Mike DeWine and I set out to achieve that 50 percent increase, and through a floor amendment to the omnibus bill, sought another \$180 million to bring overall spending on Global AIDS to \$1.525 billion.

This amendment was accepted—its success demonstrates the Senate's sincere commitment to fighting global AIDS.

\$100 million of these funds were slated for the U.S. contribution to the Global Fund—the world's primary organization to monitor and support worldwide AIDS prevention, treatment and care programming.

And the remaining \$80 million would go to USAID global AIDS programs.

Well, during conference, we lost \$80 million of the \$180 million total. But, nevertheless, I count this as a victory for the global AIDS pandemic.

In the end, an additional \$50 million was secured for the Global Fund, bringing the U.S. contribution up to \$350 million for 2003, and an additional \$50 million went to bilateral programs.

This omnibus bill designates \$1.2 billion for global AIDS. That is a 46 percent increase over what Congress appropriated in 2002.

The President's 2003 budget request suggested an increase in funding of global AIDS funding of 29 percent. I would say we have come a long way.

We will need this type of increase—at least a 50 percent increase—each year until we can close the gap between expenditures and resources necessary to fight this pandemic.

The President's FY04 budget request amounts to an increase of only 32 percent over the \$1.4 billion the U.S. will spend overall on global AIDS in 2003.

[This bull dog] I will be back, asking that at a minimum we achieve a 50 percent increase in global AIDS funding each year for the next few years.

We must continue to do more for the 42 million people worldwide who are living with HIV/AIDS and prevent a good portion of those that will become newly infected in 2003.

During the last ten minutes I have been speaking, approximately 58 people have died from AIDS, 11 of those were children.

A 15-year-old boy in Botswana faces an 80 percent chance of dying of AIDS.

By 2010, it is estimated that sub-Saharan Africa alone will be home to 20 million AIDS orphans; that's 20 million children who have lost one or both parents due to AIDS.

We must act now to help those who today suffer from the impact of HIV/AIDS as well as to change the future of today's children.

We know the situation is dire. We have data to support what program work. Now its time to fund the programs that work.

The 2003 appropriations bill helps us to take yet another tiny step forward in fighting global AIDS.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, under the previous

consent request, that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the conference report on H.J. Res. 2 and that it be considered under the following limitation: 20 minutes of debate equally between myself and the distinguished Senator from West Virginia, the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee; 10 minutes under the control of Senator DODD; 15 under the control of Senator BOXER; further, that following the use or yielding back of the time, the Senate proceed to a vote on adoption of the conference report, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, reserving right to object, I would like 3 minutes before final passage of this bill.

Mr. STEVENS. I am pleased to add that addition to my request. I am pleased to modify the request so the Senator's request is complied with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I was talking to someone here. The Senator wants 3 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota has 3 minutes. Is there objection?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I withdraw my unanimous consent request for the time being, and I ask unanimous consent that my right to be recognized to call up the report remain the same.

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

The Senator from North Dakota.

OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, it has been very interesting to me to review the budget document that is now before us that has the omnibus appropriations for 2003, which provides funding for all the discretionary programs and activities outside the Department of Defense.

For months last year, our Republican colleagues prevented completion of the remaining 2003 appropriations bills, arguing that that level for appropriations was too high and the President would not accept appropriations bills that exceeded \$750.5 billion in total.

The President's veto threat persisted even with the Senate Appropriations Committee having voted out all 13 appropriations bills on unanimous 29-to-0 votes.

After delaying the 2003 appropriations process for 5 months, and forcing

most of the Federal Government to operate under a series of continuing resolutions, our Republican colleagues have produced a bill that, when combined with the already enacted defense and military construction bills, exceeds the President's level by more than \$12 billion.

Republicans provide total discretionary budget authority for 2003 of \$762.7 billion, and highway obligational authority of \$31.8 billion, for a total of \$794.5 billion.

Last year, they railed against the Senate Budget Committee reported spending level of \$797 billion.

My friends, that is a difference of three-tenths of 1 percent, a \$2.5 billion difference. Five months of delay over a difference of three-tenths of 1 percent. Levels they said were fiscally irresponsible they have now adopted.

Most interesting—most interesting—when the bill was here on the floor, some of our colleagues on the other side ran up a debt meter on amendments offered by some Democrats that had a total cost over 10 years of \$37 billion.

We are poised to vote now on their proposal which is \$62 billion above what was offered on the floor at the time. So if they still have their debt meter chart, they had better get it out. And they ought to put another \$25 billion on their tote board because they are running up the debt—and it is their spending. They are in charge, and all their talk about Democratic spending, and that that is the problem with fiscal responsibility, is shown for what it was. It was all talk.

The reason we are in the deficit ditch is the tax cuts that were unaffordable that they have put in place and the additional tax cuts this President is seeking that are going to drive us deep into deficit and debt.

Mr. President, the numbers do not lie. I have been waiting for this moment for 5 months, to see if the rhetoric matched the reality. And now we see. In just a few moments we are going to have a chance to vote, and then we are going to see who stands with their words, and who stands with their rhetoric, and who votes to spend the money.

This has been a very interesting year, but this is just the beginning. Because we are going to see, in the coming months, who is serious about fiscal responsibility, who is serious about having budgets that add up, who is serious about paying down debt, who is serious about exploding deficits and debt—right on the eve of the retirement of the baby boom generation. I hope very much that the rhetoric matches the reality because we have not seen that in the last 5 months.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to address the issue of our fiscal year 2003 omnibus appropriations conference report.

Let me begin by, first of all, commending Senator STEVENS and Senator BYRD. Conferencing these bills is no easy task. Each of us has pieces of these bills that we care about deeply. And the Chair and Ranking Member have the awesome responsibility of trying to pull all of this together.

Although I am disappointed by many parts of the conference report, I also want to begin by paying tribute to the chairman and the ranking member and their staffs for the tremendous effort they put into this bill and to try to accommodate the many requests they received and the tremendous demands made of them.

Certainly, in many respects this bill is an improvement over the budget that was submitted to us by the President. Unfortunately, that is not a very high standard, by this Senator's calculation.

The standard that we must meet in each year's appropriations is to address the needs of the American people. Unfortunately, this bill neither reflects the priorities of the American people, nor does it do nearly enough to address our national needs.

I will begin by discussing education. There are many other parts to this bill, but education is a particular priority and source of debate and contention for the American public. Regardless of where you live, any constituency will tell you that one of their major concerns is the quality of our public education at the elementary, secondary, and higher education levels. It is critically important when you consider how significant this is to the American public that this bill should reflect to the greatest extent possible the interests of the American people in improving the quality of education.

I thank the committee for something they did in the bill on education, instead of just sounding like a critic on everything. We exempted under this bill, thanks to the leadership of Senator STEVENS and others, Head Start from the across-the-board cuts. I am grateful to them for that. That is going to make a difference to a lot of kids in the country who count on Head Start. I thank him and his staff for doing that for these young people. That would have lost somewhere around 12- to 22,000 kids, had we applied the across-the-board cut to the existing funds on Head Start. We serve thousands more than that, about 800,000, but 22,000 kids being dropped off the rolls of Head Start would have been a great tragedy. I thank them for that.

Again, I thank my colleague from Alaska on special education. He managed to work out a way with me, at least coming out of this Chamber, to put an additional \$1.5 billion into special education, which would have been a major step forward. It would not have gotten us to the 40 percent that ultimately we will have to reach, but it would have taken us a substantial part of the way down that road.

The Senator from Alaska can't win every battle, but I would be remiss if I