

legislation, and I urge them to act quickly so that we can address both the broader bill and the State sales tax issue very soon.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING
BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENSIGN). Morning business is closed.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4567, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4567) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, first, I thank all Senators for their cooperation in the handling of the bill yesterday. We made progress in disposing of several amendments. We also achieved a very important milestone in the handling of the bill. We have an agreed list of amendments that are in order to the bill. This will limit the offering of amendments to only those on the list. We appreciate very much Senators permitting us to enter that order last evening.

The bill provides total new budget authority for fiscal year 2005 of \$33.1 billion to fund the Department. In addition, an estimated \$2.9 billion in collections from offsetting collections from user-financed services, Customs duties, and trust funds will be available to finance activities of the Department for fiscal year 2005.

Excluding mandatory appropriations for retired pay of the United States Coast Guard, the bill provides \$32 billion in discretionary spending, consistent with the amount allocated by the full committee for this bill. This is \$896 million more than the President's fiscal year 2005 discretionary spending request; and \$2.8 billion more than the fiscal year 2004 appropriations level, excluding emergency supplemental appropriations and including a \$1.6 billion increase in the availability of advance appropriations for biodefense countermeasures.

The additional amount above the President's request level is used to increase funding to assist State and local first responders, to enhance aviation security, to harden critical infrastructures that are potential targets to terrorists, and to better secure our ports and waterways.

The bill also attempts to address the most critical outstanding need, that of rail and transit security. This proposal includes \$150 million for rail and transit security grants; \$34 million for high explosives countermeasures, including \$24 million for commuter and passenger

rail environments; \$194 million for protective actions, including protective measures for rail; and \$15 million for rail inspectors and canine explosives detection teams.

The bill recommends \$632 million for management and operations of the Department, including \$65 million requested by the President to continue to consolidate the Department's headquarters operations at the Nebraska Avenue Complex.

To secure our Nation's borders and enforce and investigate customs and immigration laws, the bill recommends total appropriations of \$8.7 billion, including \$5 billion for the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection and \$3.4 billion for the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. This includes an increase of \$50 million more than the request level for the Federal air marshals.

An increase of \$64 million is provided for the container security initiative. This initiative seeks to enhance the security of an indispensable, but vulnerable, link in the chain of global trade: the oceangoing shipping container. Proactively screening containers before they reach the United States will significantly contribute to efforts to secure the borders against dangers that might be introduced through commercial trade. A more secure maritime trade infrastructure will ensure the continued smooth flow of merchandise through seaports.

The illegal alien population of the United States has risen to record levels. According to the Department, the undocumented alien population has grown from approximately 3 million in 1990 to an estimated 9 million today. This bill provides \$107 million in additional resources for detaining and removing such individuals from this country.

The bill also provides \$478 million for the Federal Protective Service, which is the same as the President's budget request, to ensure a safe and secure workplace for Federal employees.

Also included is \$340 million for U.S. VISIT, the new system to identify and track foreign visitors and students and to screen for possible terrorist or criminal involvement.

In new budget authority \$140 million is provided for Citizenship and Immigration Services in addition to the \$1.5 billion estimated in collections available for these operations.

For the Transportation Security Administration, TSA, responsible for ensuring security across the U.S. transportation system, including aviation, railways, highways, and ports, the bill provides total funding of \$5.2 billion, \$184 million more than the President's budget request, and \$648 million more than the fiscal year 2004 level. In addition, it assumes \$400 million less than the President's request in offsetting aviation security fee collections. While the bill does not contain the President's requested legislative proposal to mandate the level of fees, it does re-

quire the General Accounting Office to initiate review activities necessary to resolve the appropriate level of fee collections based on calendar year 2000 airline security costs.

Over 53 percent of the funds made available for TSA are provided for Federal screeners at our Nation's commercial airports. This includes \$2.8 billion for aviation security personnel compensation and benefits, and training of passenger and baggage screeners. Also provided for aviation security is \$161 million for passenger checkpoint support and \$210 million for the purchase of baggage explosive detection systems.

For airport security direction and enforcement, \$872 million is provided, including \$293 million for airport information technology support, \$25 million for Federal flight deck officer training, and \$43 million for air cargo security and enforcement.

For maritime and surface transportation security activities, the bill provides \$55 million for transportation worker identification credentials; \$15 million for rail security efforts; \$17 million for hazardous materials driver license endorsement program; and \$24 million for maritime and land security staffing, operational oversight, and administration of maritime and land grant functions.

To further improve transportation security, \$181 million is provided for research and development of the latest technologies to detect and deter terrorist attacks, including \$57 million for research and development of next generation explosive detection systems, and \$75 million for research and development of new technologies to screen air cargo.

This bill provides nearly \$7.5 billion for the United States Coast Guard, including \$5.2 billion for military pay and operation of bases and \$1.1 billion for upgrading and replacing the Coast Guard's cutters, helicopters and planes.

Currently, the Coast Guard is deployed in support of operations in Iraq, is conducting its new homeland security mission, and is maintaining its traditional missions such as marine resource protection and drug interdiction.

The Coast Guard's deepwater recapitalization program is funded at \$776 million, \$98 million more than the President's request level.

For the United States Secret Service, the President's budget request of \$1.2 billion is fully funded to support the Service's protective and investigative missions.

For the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, \$224 million is included to provide preeminent law enforcement training to more than 20,000 Federal law enforcement professionals in the coming fiscal year.

To further strengthen the capacity of the Nation's first responders, a total of \$3.7 billion is provided for the new Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness, created