

and implement reuse plans for closing bases.

Until the process is fixed, however, it is not surprising that large amounts of the base closure funding remain unspent. Again, though, that does not mean that the funds are not needed. Eliminating these funds would only exacerbate the difficulty of closing bases and conveying the property to the subsequent owners in a timely fashion.

This is a painful enough process for a community that relied on the military base in its midst for jobs and economic stability. Let's not aggravate the situation by imperiling the Services' ability to complete the process as quickly as possible.

Mr. President, I understand that Senator THURMOND has received assurances from the chairman of the Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Military Construction that the conferees on this bill will consider restoring these funds in the conference. I applaud that commitment.

I must state, however, that I support restoring these funds with one condition. I believe that the restoration of these funds must not be done at the cost of increasing the Federal deficit. I believe the \$104 million in restored funding must be fully offset by rescissions of low priority funds.

Mr. President, I had intended to offer a second degree amendment to rescind \$104 million from the administrative and travel accounts of the Federal Government.

The amendment would have provided a full offset for the cost of restoring the BRAC-related funds in the amendment of Senator THURMOND. The Senate bill already provides \$13 billion in total spending rescissions, but this is \$4 billion less than the House bill. We should not further exacerbate the shortfall in deficit reduction funds, if we can find an offsetting reduction.

I believe the reduction of \$104 million in Government administrative and travel expenses would have been an appropriate reduction. The Office of Management advised me that, in fiscal year 1995 alone, \$107.2 billion will be spent for administration and travel. The amendment would have rescinded only \$104 million from a \$107 billion account—less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the total expenditures. Out of a budget of \$107 billion, it seems quite likely that the small amount which would be rescinded by this amendment will not be devastating to the operation of any government office. One-tenth of 1 percent of the administrative and travel budget of any Federal organization should not hamper the operations of that organization.

Mr. President, the Department of Defense and the communities surrounding closing bases need the funding in the BRAC accounts to finish a job already underway. We should not rescind those funds. I believe we should rescind a minuscule portion—less than one-tenth of 1 percent—of the Federal Government's administrative and travel bud-

et to pay for these necessary BRAC-related activities.

Unfortunately, we were unable to come to agreement on the offsets I intended to propose. Therefore, Senator THURMOND has chosen to rely on the assurances he has received from Senator BURNS concerning restoring these funds in the conference. I respectfully urge the conferees to identify offsetting rescissions in other areas to pay for the restoration of these funds.

Mr. President, it is imperative that we not decrease the amount of deficit reduction in this bill. We are undertaking the daunting task of prioritizing Federal spending and reducing the Federal debt, working toward a balanced Federal budget. By eliminating unnecessary and wasteful spending of prior year appropriated funds, we can begin our review of the fiscal year 1996 budget with money in the bank.

Therefore, the conferees on this bill should ensure that an offsetting reduction is made for the restoration of these BRAC-related funds. The conference agreement should preserve at least the level of deficit reduction contained in the Senate bill, and in my view, should move toward the greater deficit reduction in the House bill. As important as this funding is for BRAC cleanup and implementation, I do not believe it should be restored at the cost of increasing the deficit.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

1994 ANNUAL REPORT ON ALASKA'S NATURAL RESOURCES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 40

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying

report; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the 1994 Annual Report on Alaska's Mineral Resources, as required by section 1011 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (Public Law 96-487; 16 U.S.C. 3151). This report contains pertinent public information relating to minerals in Alaska gathered by the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Bureau of Mines, and other Federal agencies.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 3, 1995.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-690. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the text of international agreements other than treaties, and background statements; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-691. A message from the Chairman of the Board of the African Development Foundation, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to authorize appropriations for the African Development Foundation; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-693. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of the Treasury, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to authorize appropriations for the United States contribution to the tenth replenishment of the resources of the International Development Association; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-694. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of the Treasury, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to provide for a United States contribution to the Interest Subsidy Account of the Successor (EASF II) to the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility of the International Monetary Fund; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-695. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration Buy America Waivers for fiscal years 1992 and 1993; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-696. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 11-31 enacted by the Council on March 7, 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-697. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 11-32 enacted by the Council on March 7, 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-698. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 11-34 enacted by the Council on March 7, 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-699. A communication from the Special Counsel of the United States, transmitting,