

THE SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I wish to express my gratitude to the two leaders for the order that has been entered with respect to the supplemental appropriations bill. That bill is a good bill. It was reported out of the Senate Appropriations Committee on yesterday by a vote of 29 to 0. It had unanimous support in the reporting of it on yesterday. That unanimous vote could not have been possible without the cooperation and support and leadership of the distinguished Senator from Alaska and the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, Mr. TED STEVENS.

The committee held extensive hearings, and the Senator from Alaska and I joined in issuing the request for witnesses. Every witness that came before the committee had been agreed upon jointly by the Senator from Alaska and myself. Those hearings were important, they were productive, and they brought forth exceedingly valuable information to the members of the committee. And that information is reflected in the makeup of the appropriations bill.

We had the local responders, the firemen, the police, the emergency health employees. We had seven Cabinet officers from the administration, and we also had the Director of FEMA. We had mayors. We had Governors. I was pleased with the hearings. I am very grateful and appreciative of the efforts that were made by Senator STEVENS and the Members on both sides of the aisle. The hearings were very well attended. So it is a good bill.

The war on terrorism proceeds. The Congress is receiving top secret briefings from the Secretary of Defense and the FBI Director almost weekly. The country is on a heightened state of alert.

On March 21, 2002, the President submitted a supplemental budget request to prosecute that war.

The principal components of the President's budget request included \$14 billion for the Department of Defense; \$5.3 billion for homeland defense, including \$4.4 billion for the recently established Transportation Security Administration, \$5.5 billion for New York in response to the September 11 attacks, \$1.6 billion for international emergencies.

This supplemental bill provides for those emergencies, as requested by the President.

Just today, President Bush said, "We've still got threats to the homeland that we've got to deal with, and it's very important for us not to hamper our ability to wage that war. . . ."

That is exactly what the supplemental appropriations deals with—homeland security.

The supplemental bill includes \$8.35 billion for homeland defense, and increase of \$3 billion over the budget request. This \$3 billion focuses on problems that were identified during our homeland defense hearings.

Our committee held very extensive hearings. We heard from the first responders, the state and local law enforcement personnel, the fire and medical personnel, individuals representing the ports, and those who had concerns about cyber security and the security of our nuclear weapons facilities and nuclear labs. We heard from those who are concerned about border security, airport security, food and agricultural safety, nuclear non-proliferation programs, and the vulnerability of our water systems. We heard from seven cabinet secretaries and the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

All of this information led us to formulate a supplemental appropriations bill which cleared the Senate Appropriations Committee by a recorded vote of twenty-nine to zero.

Highlights include: \$1.0 billion, \$646 million above the request for first responder programs such as firefighting grants, State and local law enforcement grants, grants to State and local governments to fix the interoperability problem between State and local police, fire and medical personnel, emergency planning grants, funds to increase the number of FEMA search and rescue teams that have the training and equipment to combat biological, chemical and nuclear attacks and funds to make sure that we have standards for interoperable equipment; \$970 million, \$716 million above the request for port security including grants to improve security at ports, for increased Coast Guard surveillance, for increased Customs funding to improve container inspections overseas and to improve our technology on inspecting containers; \$387 million of unrequested funds for bioterrorism, including funds to improve our toxicology and infectious disease lab capacity at the Centers for Disease Control; \$200 million, \$174 million above the request for security at our nuclear weapons facilities and nuclear labs; \$154 million, \$135 million above the request for cyber security, with a special emphasis on helping the private sector defend itself from attack; \$125 million, \$84 million above the request for border security, including resources for INS facilities on the borders and for deploying the system for rapid response criminal background checks to 30 more ports; \$100 million of unrequested funds for nuclear nonproliferation programs; \$265 million of unrequested funds for airport security, including \$100 million to help airports meet the new Federal standards for airport security; \$200 million for USDA for food safety labs, additional food inspectors, and for vulnerability assessments for rural water systems; \$100 million for EPA to complete vulnerability assessments on the security of our water systems; and \$286 million is provided for other homeland defense items such as Secret Service efforts to combat electronic crime, FBI counterterrorism efforts and funds for the Justice Department to develop an integrated information system.

The bill fully funds the President's \$4.4 billion request for the new Transportation Security Administration, unlike the House which cuts the request by \$550 million.

Just within the past few days, Vice President CHENEY warned that a terrorist strike within our shores is "almost certain." Defense Secretary Rumsfeld stated that it is inevitable that terrorists will acquire weapons of mass destruction. Secretary of State Colin Powell warned that "terrorists are trying every way they can" to get nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. Security has been tightened around New York City landmarks. And Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge said that, "While we prepare for another terrorist attack, we need to understand that it is not a question of if, but a question of when."

The warnings are real. The danger is real. We should act, not delay. We should protect lives, not play politics. I urge Senators to move forward with this supplemental bill and to do so quickly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished chairman of our Appropriations Committee for his kind remarks and join him in recommending the bill to the Senate that we will debate when we return.

DUTCH HARBOR

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I have sought recognition today because, on Sunday, I will travel to the Island of Unalaska and attend the first in a series of meetings that will take place to commemorate and to honor those who died in the attack by the Japanese in June of 1942 against what was then known as Dutch Harbor.

Dutch Harbor is a harbor within the Bay of Alaska. It is an area not quite 2,000 miles out from Anchorage. It is a very interesting place. It is a wonderful place to be.

The people of Dutch Harbor will start a weeklong series of events to honor the people who served in our military during the time of the Japanese attack against Dutch Harbor.

I am indebted to the University of North Carolina online library for its Aleutians Campaign Web site which I researched today to make certain I would properly report this attack to the Senate today.

On June 3, 1942, the Japanese, having come into Alaska at Attu and Kiska, where they invaded our islands and occupied them, moved on up the Aleutian chain and attacked Dutch Harbor. There was located near Dutch Harbor an Army fort known as Fort Mears.

This attack, by the way, to give it some historical reference, was about the same time as the attack on Midway Island. It was about 6 a.m. when four bombers approached Dutch Harbor and released 16 bombs on the fort and into