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Vetoed 7/2/76

Override - House 7/22

270-131

Sustained in Senate 7/22

HR 14846 -

Signed 9/30/76



RE: FY'77 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION BILL

Military Base Closures and Realignment

CURRENT PROGRAM

- Present process provides four to nine months of study to insure valid decision.
- Current procedures allow for review and comment by all interested parties prior to final decisions.
- President's Economic Adjustment Committee available to assist affected communities.
- Other Federal funds available to provide transitional assistance.

COST IMPACT

- \$5 billion in annual recurring costs have been saved since 1969.
- Increase in FY'78 Defense Budget of \$150 million and increase in end strengths of 11,300 would be required if recently announced actions are delayed.

MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS

- DOD vigorously striving to economize and increase efficiency.
- Congressional efforts to amend current procedures preclude effective and efficient management of available resources.
- Base structure should be determined by military needs.

Dear Colleague:

You will be voting this week to sustain or override the President's veto of the FY 77 Military Construction Bill. I urge you to sustain the veto.

The President vetoed the FY 1977 Military Construction Authorization Bill because of Section 612, which imposes an arbitrary restriction upon the President's ability to fulfill his constitutional responsibilities as Commander-in-Chief. It mandates a one-year delay in the closure or realignment of military installations, thus preventing the President from taking expeditious executive action to improve our defense posture and to avoid waste and inefficiency.

A similar provision caused President Johnson to veto the FY 1966 Military Construction Act.

If allowed to become law, Section 612 would delay the closure and realignment actions announced for study earlier this year by the Defense Department, and thus defer the opportunity to effect savings at the rate of \$150 million annually.

Section 612 also would require the retention of approximately 11,300 military and civilian personnel positions in non-essential base activities at least through FY 1977. It is noteworthy that the Congress has already deleted the civilian spaces from the FY 1977 Defense Authorization Bill, clearly an inconsistent action.

Some Members have taken the position that Section 612 does no more than assure that Members of Congress are informed about prospective closures or realignments in time to accommodate their responsibilities



to constituents. That is not the case. The Defense Department already has well-established procedures for notifying Congress prior to taking action on closures or realignments. What is at issue is whether the Department should be forced to delay needed economies for twelve months or more in cases where far less time would be sufficient to accommodate the concerns of Members of Congress and to meet the statutory requirements of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA).

Congress constantly admonishes the Department of Defense to increase efficiency and even mandates personnel cuts on the assumption that such economies can be effected. Section 612 works in just the opposite direction. We must recognize that since 1968 the Defense Department has been reduced by nearly 1,800,000 military and civilian personnel. Clearly these reductions in numbers must be accompanied by some changes in the base structure if good management is to be assured.



JULY 2, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

I am returning herewith without my approval H.R. 12384, a bill "To authorize certain construction at military installations and for other purposes."

I regret that I must take this action because the bill is generally acceptable, providing a comprehensive construction program for fiscal year 1977 keyed to recognized military requirements. One provision, however, is highly objectionable, thus precluding my approval of the measure.

Section 612 of the bill would prohibit certain base closures or the reduction of civilian personnel at certain military installations unless the proposed action is reported to Congress and a period of nine months elapses during which time the military department concerned would be required to identify the full range of environmental impacts of the proposed action, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Subsequently, the final decision to close or significantly reduce an installation covered under the bill would have to be reported to the Armed Services Committees of the Congress together with a detailed justification for such decision. No action could be taken to implement the decision until the expiration of at least ninety days following submission of the detailed justification to the appropriate committees. The bill provides a limited Presidential waiver of the requirements of section 612 for reasons of military emergency or national security.

This provision is also unacceptable from the standpoint of sound Government policy. It would substitute an arbitrary time limit and set of requirements for the current procedures whereby base closures and reductions are effected, procedures which include compliance with NEPA and adequately take into account all other relevant considerations, and afford extensive opportunity for public and congressional involvement. By imposing unnecessary delays in base closures and reductions, the bill's requirements would generate a budgetary drain on the defense dollar which should be used to strengthen our military capabilities.

Moreover, section 612 raises serious questions by its attempt to limit my powers over military bases. The President must be able, if the need arises, to change or reduce the mission at any military installation if and when that becomes necessary.

more

(OVER)



The Department of Defense has undertaken over 2,700 actions to reduce, realign, and close military installations and activities since 1969. These actions have enabled us to sustain the combat capability of our armed forces while reducing annual Defense costs by more than \$4 billion. For realignment proposals already announced for study, section 612 could increase fiscal year 1978 budgetary requirements for defense by \$150 million and require retention, at least through fiscal year 1977, of approximately 11,300 military and civilian personnel positions not needed for essential base activities.

The nation's taxpayers rightly expect the most defense possible for their tax dollars. I am certain Congress does not intend unnecessary or arbitrary increases in the tax burden of the American people. Numerous congressional reports on national defense demonstrate the desire by the Congress to trim unnecessary defense spending and personnel. I cannot approve legislation that would result in waste and inefficiency at the expense of meeting our essential military requirements.

GERALD R. FORD

THE WHITE HOUSE,
July 2, 1976

#

REPUBLICAN WHIP—ROBERT H. MICHEL

File WH

Date: 19 July 76

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION

94th Congress

Question: Will you vote to sustain the President's veto of H.R. 12384?

Tally Sheet

Western and Plains (Talcott)					Midwestern States (Myers)				
	Yes	No	Und.	N/R		Yes	No	Und.	N/R
California					Indiana				
Bell	/		/		Hillis	/	/		
Burgener	/		/		Myers	/			
Clausen			/		Iowa				
Clawson			/		Grassley			/	
Goldwater			/		Michigan				
Hinshaw	/		/		Broomfield			/	
Ketchum	/		/		Brown	/			
Lagomarsino (ARW)			/		Cederberg	/			
McCloskey			/		Esch	/			
Moorhead	/		/		Hutchinson	/			
Rousselot	/		/		Ruppe	/			
Talcott	/		/		Vander Jagt			/	
Wiggins	/		/		Minnesota				
Wilson			/		Frenzel (ARW)	/			
Pettis			/		Hagedorn	/			
Alaska					Quie	/			
Young <i>probably</i>		/			Wisconsin				
Arizona					Kasten			/	
Conlan <i>probably</i>		/			Steiger			/	
Rhodes			/		Ohio				
Steiger			/		Ashbrook			/	
Colorado					Brown (ARW)	/		/	
Armstrong (ARW)	/		/		Clancy	/			
Johnson <i>probably</i>	/		/		Devine	/			
Idaho					Gradison	/		/	
Hansen	/		/		Guyer	/		/	
Symms <i>probably</i>	/		/		Harsha	/		/	
New Mexico					Kindness	/		/	
Lujan	/		/		Latta	/		/	
Washington					Miller	/		/	
Pritchard	/		/		Mosher	/		/	
Kansas					Regula	/		/	
Sebelius	/		/		Stanton	/		/	
Shriver	/		/		Whalen <i>leaning yes</i>	/		/	
Skubitz	/		/		Wylie	/		/	
Winn	/		/		Illinois				
Nebraska					Anderson	/		/	
McCollister	/		/		Crane	/		/	
Smith	/		/		Derwinski <i>O/T</i>	/		/	
Thone (ARW)	/		/		Erlenborn	/		/	
North Dakota					Findley (ARW)	/		/	
Andrews	/		/		Hyde	/		/	
Oklahoma					Madigan	/		/	
Jarman	/		/		McClory	/		/	
South Dakota					Michel	/		/	
Abdnor	/		/		O'Brien	/		/	
Pressler	/		/		Railsback	/		/	
Total	10	3	16	7	Total	16	5	11	9
Total pages 1 and 2	41	26	49	29					

REPUBLICAN WHIP—ROBERT H. MICHEL

Date:
Question:

94th Congress
Tally Sheet

Military Construction

Border and Southern (Young)					New England and Mid-Atlantic (McDade)				
	Yes	No	Und.	N/R		Yes	No	Und.	N/R
<i>Maryland</i>					<i>Connecticut</i>				
Gude.....					McKinney.....				
Holt.....					Sarasin.....				
Bauman.....					<i>Delaware</i>				
<i>Missouri</i>					duPont.....				
Taylor (ARW).....					<i>Maine</i>				
<i>Kentucky</i>					Cohen.....				
Carter.....					Emery.....				
Snyder.....					<i>Massachusetts</i>				
<i>Tennessee</i>					Conte (ARW).....				
Beard.....					Heckler.....				
Duncan.....					<i>New Hampshire</i>				
Quillen.....					Cleveland.....				
<i>Florida</i>					<i>New Jersey</i>				
Bafalis.....					Fenwick.....				
Burke.....					Forsythe.....				
Frey.....					Rinaldo.....				
Kelly.....					<i>Vermont</i>				
Young.....					Jeffords.....				
<i>North Carolina</i>					<i>New York</i>				
Broyhill.....					Conable.....				
Martin.....					Fish.....				
<i>South Carolina</i>					Gilman.....				
Spence.....					 				
<i>Virginia</i>					Horton.....				
Butler.....					Kemp.....				
Daniel.....					Lent.....				
Robinson.....					McEwen.....				
Wampler.....					Mitchell (ARW).....				
Whitehurst (ARW).....					Peyser.....				
<i>Alabama</i>					Walsh.....				
Buchanan.....					Wydler.....				
Dickinson (ARW).....					<i>Pennsylvania</i>				
Edwards..... <i>if enough votes to sustain</i>					Biester.....				
<i>Arkansas</i>					Coughlin.....				
Hammerschmidt.....					Eshleman.....				
<i>Louisiana</i>					Goodling.....				
Moore.....					Heinz.....				
Treen.....					Johnson (ARW).....				
<i>Mississippi</i>					McDade.....				
Cochran.....					Myers.....				
Lott.....					Schneebeli.....				
<i>Texas</i>					Schulze.....				
Archer..... <i>leaning over the</i>					Shuster.....				
Collins.....									
Steelman.....									
Paul.....									
Total.....	9	5	14	6	Total.....	6	13	8	7



FILE

STATE AND PARTY REPORT

22 JULY 1976 1:24 PM PAGE 1

ROLL NO. 535

H R 12384

2/3 YEA-AND-NAY

CLOSED 22 JULY 1976 1:21 PM

AUTHOR(S):

ON PRESIDENTIAL VETO

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION, 1977

	YEA	NAY	PRES	NV
DEMOCRATIC	228	37		22
REPUBLICAN	42	94		9
OTHER				
TOTAL	270	131		31



ROLL NO. 535

DEMOCRATIC

OTHER

REPUBLICAN

ALABAMA

BEVILL NAY
FLOWERS YEA
JONES (AL) YEA
NICHOLS YEA

BUCHANAN NAY
DICKINSON NAY
EDWARDS (AL) NAY

ALASKA

YOUNG (AK) NY

ARIZONA

UDALL YEA

CONLAN YEA
RHODES NAY
STEIGER (AZ) YEA

ARKANSAS

ALEXANDER YEA
MILLS YEA
THORNTON YEA

HAMMERSCHMIDT NAY

CALIFORNIA

ANDERSON (CA) YEA
BROWN (CA) YEA
BURKE (CA) YEA
BURTON, JOHN YEA
BURTON, PHILLIP NAY
CORMAN YEA
DANIELSON YEA
DELLUMS NAY
EDWARDS (CA) YEA
HANNAFORD YEA
HAWKINS YEA
JOHNSON (CA) YEA
KREBS YEA
LEGGETT NAY
LLOYD (CA) YEA
MC FALL YEA
MILLER (CA) YEA
MINETA YEA
MOSS YEA
PATTERSON (CA) YEA
REES YEA
ROYBAL YEA
RYAN NAY
SISK YEA
STARK YEA
VAN DEERLIN YEA
WAXMAN YEA
WILSON, C. H. YEA

BELL NAY
BURGENER YEA
CLAUSEN, DON H. NAY
CLAWSON, DEL NAY
GOLDWATER NAY
HINSHAW NY
KETCHUM YEA
LAGOMARSINO YEA
MC CLOSKEY NAY
MOORHEAD (CA) YEA
PETTIS YEA
ROUSSELOT YEA
TALCOTT YEA
WIGGINS NAY
WILSON, BOB NAY

COLORADO

EVANS (CO) YEA
SCHROEDER YEA
WIRTH YEA

ARMSTRONG NAY
JOHNSON (CO) NAY



ROLL NO. 535

DEMOCRATIC

OTHER

REPUBLICAN

CONNECTICUT

COTTER	YEA
DODD	YEA
GIAIMO	YEA
MOFFETT	YEA

MC KINNEY	NAY
SARASIN	NAY

DELAWARE

DU PONT	YEA
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FLORIDA

BENNETT	YEA
CHAPPELL	YEA
FASCELL	YEA
FUQUA	YEA
GIBBONS	NAY
HALEY	YEA
LEHMAN	YEA
PEPPER	NV
ROGERS	YEA
SIKES	YEA

BAFALIS	NAY
BURKE (FL)	NAY
FREY	NAY
KELLY	NAY
YOUNG (FL)	NAY

GEORGIA

BRINKLEY	NV
FLYNT	NV
GINN	YEA
LANDRUM	NAY
LEVITAS	NAY
MATHIS	YEA
MC DONALD	YEA
STEPHENS	NAY
STUCKEY	YEA
YOUNG (GA)	NV

HAWAII

MATSUNAGA	YEA
HINK	YEA

IDAHO

HANSEN	NAY
SYMMS	NAY



ROLL NO. 535

DEMOCRATIC

OTHER

REPUBLICAN

ILLINOIS

ANNUNZIO	YEA
COLLINS (IL)	YEA
FARY	YEA
HALL (IL)	YEA
METCALFE	YEA
MIKVA	YEA
MURPHY (IL)	YEA
PRICE	YEA
ROSTENKOWSKI	YEA
RUSSO	YEA
SHIPLEY	NY
SIMON	NAY
YATES	YEA

ANDERSON (IL)	NY
CRANE	YEA
DERWINSKI	NY
ERLENBORN	NAY
FINDLEY	NAY
HYDE	NAY
MADIGAN	NAY
MC CLORY	NAY
MICHEL	NAY
O'BRIEN	NAY
RAILSBACK	YEA

INDIANA

BRADENAS	YEA
EVANS (IN)	YEA
FITHIAN	NAY
HAMILTON	YEA
HAYES (IN)	YEA
JACOBS	YEA
MADDEN	YEA
ROUSH	NAY
SHARP	NAY

HILLIS	YEA
MYERS (IN)	NAY

IOWA

BEDELL	NAY
BLOVIN	YEA
HARKIN	NY
MEZVINSKY	YEA
SMITH (IA)	NAY

GRASSLEY	NAY
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KANSAS

KEYS	YEA
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SEBELIUS	NAY
SHRIVER	NAY
SKUBITZ	NAY
WINN	NAY

KENTUCKY

BRECKINRIDGE	YEA
HUBBARD	YEA
MAZZOLI	YEA
NATCHER	YEA
PERKINS	YEA

CARTER	YEA
SNYDER	YEA

LOUISIANA

BOGGS	YEA
BREAUX	YEA
HEBERT	YEA
LONG (LA)	YEA
PASSMAN	YEA
WAGGONER	YEA

MOORE	YEA
TREEN	NAY



ROLL NO. 535

DEMOCRATIC

OTHER

REPUBLICAN

MAINE

COHEN	YEA
EMERY	YEA

MARYLAND

BYRON	YEA
LONG (MD)	YEA
MITCHELL (MD)	YEA
SARBANES	YEA
SPELLMAN	YEA

BAUMAN	YEA
GUDE	NAY
HOLT	YEA

MASSACHUSETTS

BOLAND	YEA
BURKE (MA)	YEA
DRINAN	YEA
EARLY	YEA
HARRINGTON	NV
HOAKLEY	YEA
O'NEILL	YEA
STUDDS	YEA
TSONGAS	YEA

CONTE	YEA
HECKLER (MA)	YEA

MICHIGAN

BLANCHARD	YEA
BRODHEAD	YEA
CARR	NAY
CONYERS	NAY
DIGGS	YEA
DINGELL	YEA
FORD (MI)	YEA
HEDZI	YEA
O'HARA	NV
RIEGLE	YEA
TRAXLER	YEA
VANDER VEEN	YEA

BROOKFIELD	NAY
BROWN (MI)	NAY
CEDERBERG	NAY
ESCH	NV
HUTCHINSON	NAY
RUPPE	YEA
VANDER JAGT	NAY

MINNESOTA

BERGLAND	NAY
FRASER	NAY
KARTH	NV
NOLAN	NAY
OBERSTAR	YEA

FRENZEL	NAY
HAGEDORN	NAY
QUIE	NAY

MISSISSIPPI

BOWEN	YEA
MONTGOMERY	YEA
WHITTEN	NAY

COCHRAN	NAY
LOTT	NAY



ROLL NO. 535

DEMOCRATIC

OTHER

REPUBLICAN

MISSOURI

BOLLING	YEA
BURLISON (MO)	YEA
CLAY	NY
HUNGATE	YEA
ICHORD	YEA
LITTON	NY
RANDALL	YEA
SULLIVAN	YEA
SYMINGTON	YEA

TAYLOR (MO)	NAY
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MONTANA

BAUCUS	YEA
MELCHER	YEA

NEBRASKA

MC COLLISTER	NAY
SMITH (NB)	NAY
THONE	NAY

NEVADA

SANTINI	YEA
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NEW HAMPSHIRE

D'AMOURS	YEA
----------	-----

CLEVELAND	YEA
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NEW JERSEY

DANIELS (NJ)	YEA
FLORIO	YEA
HELSTOSKI	YEA
HOWARD	YEA
HUGHES	YEA
MAGUIRE	YEA
MEYNER	YEA
MINISH	YEA
PATTEN (NJ)	YEA
RODINO	YEA
ROE	YEA
THOMPSON	YEA

FENWICK	NAY
FORSYTHE	NAY
RINALDO	YEA

NEW MEXICO

RUNNELS	YEA
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LUJAN	NAY
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ROLL NO. 535

DEMOCRATIC

OTHER

REPUBLICAN

NEW YORK

ABZUG	NY
ADDABBO	YEA
AMBRO	YEA
BADILLO	YEA
BIAGGI	YEA
BINGHAM	YEA
CHISHOLM	YEA
DELANEY	YEA
DOWNEY (NY)	YEA
HANLEY	YEA
HOLTZMAN	YEA
KOCH	YEA
LAFALCE	YEA
LUNDINE	YEA
MC HUGH	YEA
MURPHY (NY)	NY
NDWAK	YEA
OTTINGER	YEA
PATTISON (NY)	YEA
PIKE	YEA
RANGEL	NAY
RICHMOND	YEA
ROSENTHAL	YEA
SCHEUER	YEA
SOLARZ	YEA
STRATTON	YEA
WOLFF	YEA
ZEFERETTI	YEA

CONABLE	NAY
FISH	YEA
GILMAN	YEA
HORTON	YEA
KEMP	NAY
LEHT	NAY
MC EWEH	YEA
MITCHELL (NY)	YEA
PEYSER	NY
WALSH	YEA
WYDLER	NAY

NORTH CAROLINA

ANDREWS (NC)	NY
FOUNTAIN	NAY
HEFNER	YEA
HENDERSON	YEA
JONES (NC)	YEA
HEAL	YEA
PREYER	YEA
ROSE	YEA
TAYLOR (NC)	YEA

BROYHILL	NAY
MARTIN	NAY

NORTH DAKOTA

ANDREWS (ND)	YEA
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ROLL NO. 535

DEMOCRATIC

OTHER

REPUBLICAN

OHIO

ASHLEY	NAY
CARNEY	NAY
HAYS (OH)	NY
MOTTL	YEA
SEIBERLING	YEA
STANTON, JAMES V.	NY
STOKES	YEA
VANIK	YEA

ASHBROOK	NAY
BROWN (OH)	NAY
CLANCY	NAY
DEVINE	NAY
GRADISON	NAY
GUYER	NAY
HARSHA	NAY
KINDNESS	NAY
LATTA	NAY
MILLER (OH)	NAY
MOSHER	NAY
REGULA	NAY
STANTON, J. WILLIAM	NAY
WHALEN	NAY
WYLIE	NAY

OKLAHOMA

ALBERT	
ENGLISH	YEA
JONES (OK)	NAY
RISENHOOVER	NY
STEED	NAY

JARMAN	NAY
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OREGON

AUCOIN	NAY
DUNCAN (OR)	YEA
ULLMAN	YEA
WEAVER	YEA

PENNSYLVANIA

DENT	YEA
EDGAR	YEA
EILBERG	YEA
FLOOD	YEA
GAYDOS	YEA
GREEN	YEA
HOORHEAD (PA)	NAY
MORGAN	YEA
MURTHA	NAY
NIX	YEA
ROONEY	YEA
VIGORITO	YEA
YATRON	YEA

BIESTER	YEA
COUGHLIN	NAY
ESHLEMAN	YEA
GOODLING	NAY
HEINZ	YEA
JOHNSON (PA)	NAY
MC DADE	YEA
MYERS (PA)	NAY
SCHNEEBELI	NY
SCHULZE	YEA
SHUSTER	NAY

RHODE ISLAND

BEARD (RI)	YEA
ST GERMAIN	YEA



ROLL NO. 535

DEMOCRATIC

OTHER

REPUBLICAN

SOUTH CAROLINA

DAVIS	YEA
DERRICK	YEA
HOLLAND	YEA
JENRETTE	YEA
NANN	NAY

SPENCE	YEA
--------	-----

SOUTH DAKOTA

ABDNOR	NAY
PRESSLER	NAY

TENNESSEE

ALLEN	YEA
EVINS (TN)	YEA
FORD (TN)	YEA
JONES (TN)	NV
LLOYD (TN)	YEA

BEARD (TN)	YEA
DUNCAN (TN)	NV
QUILLEN	NAY

TEXAS

BROOKS	YEA
BURLESON (TX)	YEA
DE LA GARZA	YEA
ECKHARDT	YEA
GONZALEZ	YEA
HALL (TX)	YEA
HIGHTOWER	YEA
JORDAN	NV
KAZEN	YEA
KRUEGER	NV
MAHON	YEA
MILFORD	NAY
PICKLE	YEA
POAGE	YEA
ROBERTS	YEA
TEAGUE	NV
WHITE	YEA
WILSON, (TX)	YEA
WRIGHT	YEA
YOUNG (TX)	YEA

ARCHER	NAY
COLLINS (TX)	NAY
PAUL	NAY
STEELMAN	NV

UTAH

HOWE	NV
MC KAY	NAY

VERMONT

JEFFORDS	YEA
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VIRGINIA

DANIEL, DAN	YEA
DOWNING (VA)	YEA
FISHER	YEA
HARRIS	YEA
SATTERFIELD	YEA

BUTLER	NAY
DANIEL, R. W.	YEA
ROBINSON	NAY
WAMPLER	NAY
WHITEHURST	YEA



ROLL NO. 535

DEMOCRATIC

OTHER

REPUBLICAN

WASHINGTON

ADAMS	YEA
BONKER	YEA
FOLEY	NAY
HICKS	YEA
MC CORMACK	YEA
MEEDS	YEA

PRITCHARD

NAY

WEST VIRGINIA

HECHLER (WV)	NAY
HOLLOHAN	YEA
SLACK	YEA
STAGGERS	YEA

WISCONSIN

ASPIN	NAY
BALDUS	YEA
CORNELL	YEA
KASTENMEIER	NAY
OBEY	YEA
REUSS	YEA
ZABLOCKI	YEA

KASTEN	NAY
STEIGER (WI)	NAY

WYOMING

RONCALIO	YEA
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* * * * * E N D O F R E P O R T * * * * *

REPUBLICAN CLERK'S
REFERENCE COPY

JOE BARTLETT
H-220, U. S. CAPITOL



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 27, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAX FRIEDERSDORF
THROUGH: CHARLES LEPPER T, JR.
FROM: PATRICK ROWLAND *PR*
SUBJECT: Military Construction

The House Armed Services Committee today reported out a Military Construction Bill (H.R. 14846) which is exactly the same as the one vetoed by the President minus the objectionable O'Neill amendment.

The vote was 26-1 with Mrs. Schroeder voting "no."

A jurisdictional problem has come up with Jack Brooks, Chairman of the Government Operations Committee, over section 614, which deals with land exchanges. Paul Tsompanas hopes to remedy this with a floor colloquy.

It is Congressman Ichord's intention to bring this bill up under suspension next week. Should he fail to get the necessary two-thirds, he will seek a rule.



STATES NOT AFFECTED BY BASE CLOSINGS

Alaska

Arkansas

Colorado

Connecticut

Delaware

Georgia

Hawaii

Idaho

Iowa

Kansas

Kentucky

Louisiana

Minnesota

Mississippi

Nebraska

Nevada

New Hampshire

New Mexico

North Carolina

North Dakota



STATES NOT AFFECTED BY BASE CLOSINGS (Page 2)

Ohio

Oklahoma

Oregon

Rhode Island

South Carolina

South Dakota

Utah

Vermont

Washington

West Virginia

Wisconsin

Wyoming



Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am today signing H.R. 14846, the Military Construction Authorization Act for fiscal year 1977. H.R. 14846 provides a comprehensive construction program for fiscal year 1977 keyed to recognized military requirements.

Three months ago, I vetoed its predecessor, H.R. 12384, because it contained highly objectionable provisions that would have delayed for at least a year almost any action to close or realign a major military installation. Such unnecessary delay would have wasted defense dollars which are needed to strengthen our military capabilities and would also have substantially limited my powers as Commander-in-Chief over our military installations. This was obviously unacceptable and Congress sustained my veto.

The bill which I am signing today represents a substantial compromise on behalf of the Congress and refreshes my faith in the system of checks and balances established by our Constitution. The requirement of a year's delay which I vetoed has been replaced in H.R. 14846 by a sixty-day waiting period. While I believe that current procedures provide adequate time for the Congress and other interested parties to review base realignment actions, the sixty-day waiting period represents a compromise which I accept.

Since the sixty-day delay is imposed after the completion of required studies and the announcement of the official realignment decision, further delay would waste essential defense resources. Thus, I am directing the Secretary of Defense to implement realignment plans at the conclusion of this sixty-day period.

Finally, my concern for the economic difficulties faced by individuals and communities affected by defense realignments is well-known. On July 12 of this year, I directed the heads of twenty Federal departments and agencies to strengthen their efforts to deal with all aspects of the problem. It should be noted that concerned departments and agencies have worked effectively with 136 communities in forty States over the past 6 years and have achieved notable results.

I am equally committed, however, to the principle that our economic adjustment efforts in communities affected by realignments must remain separate from national defense decisions to realign military installations. This legislation does not make base realignment decisions contingent upon the economic impact such decisions may have upon communities where affected bases are located. In this regard, the Senate Committee report on this bill states:

"... the decision to close or reduce a military installation must be based on military necessity with due regard for

more



environmental impact. Military bases cannot be maintained to support other than national defense requirements."

In summary, H.R. 14846 provides a satisfactory and much needed military construction program for fiscal year 1977. I am confident that the bill will enable us to meet our essential military requirements in a responsible and cost-effective manner.

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