

equipment and that they be fully compensated for the work they do. It is our responsibility to make sure that all of those things happen. Mr. Speaker, I believe this bill goes a long way toward meeting that responsibility.

The bill provides a 4.8 percent pay raise effective next January and, more importantly, ensures that future pay raises for the military will keep pace with private sector pay increases. I cannot stress too much how important this provision is to the retention problem we currently face with our active duty military.

The bill also reforms retirement pay which will help with retention. The housing allowance budget is significantly increased in the bill, which will result in lower out-of-pocket costs for housing for military personnel.

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The bill extends several special pay and bonus provisions, reforms the reenlistment program and creates several new special pay programs specifically designed to enhance retention. The Committee on Armed Services is to be commended for its excellent work in this area.

I would also like to commend the committee for its inclusion of \$250.1 million to procure 10 F-16C aircraft, as the President had requested, as well as the requested funds for the F-22 Raptor, the next-generation air dominance fighter. The bill contains \$1.2 billion for research and development, \$1.6 billion for six low-rate initial production aircraft, and \$277.1 million for advance procurement of 10 LRIP aircraft in fiscal year 2001.

The bill also provides \$987.4 million for 11, V-22s, one aircraft more than the President's request. The Committee on Armed Services has acted wisely by adding this additional aircraft so that the Marine Corps will be able to more quickly replace its aging fleet of CH-46 helicopters.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1401 is a good bill, a bill we can be proud of. But, Mr. Speaker, this rule does not reflect the bipartisan support of the bill it makes in order. I will oppose the previous question and ask for an open rule at the appropriate time.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL).

(Mr. PAUL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time. I would like to point out that this is a rule of which I do not believe the authors should be proud. This rule, I believe, strictly limits a serious debate with regards to our national defense and our involvement in war at this particular time.

Today, the International War Crimes Tribunal decided to indict Milosevic. Milosevic is obviously a character that

deserves severe criticism, but at this particular juncture in the debate over this erroneous and ill-gotten war in Yugoslavia, this indicates to most of the world that there is no attempt whatsoever on the part of NATO to attempt any peace negotiations. This is a guarantee of the perpetuation of war.

Milosevic is going to be further strengthened by this. He will not be weakened. It was said the bombing would weaken Milosevic, and yet he was strengthened. This same move, this pretense that this kangaroo court can indict Milosevic and carry this to fruition indicates only that there are some who will enjoy perpetuating this war, because there is no way this can enhance peace. This is a sign of total hypocrisy, I believe, on the part of NATO. NATO, eventually, by history, will be indicted.

But today we are dealing with this process, and this is related to the bill that is about to be brought to the floor because, specifically, as this bill came out of committee, it said that monies in this bill should be used for defense, not for aggressive warfare in Kosovo, and yet that was struck in the Committee on Rules. That is a serious change in the bill. I think all our colleagues must remember this when it comes time to vote for the final passage.

We could have had a bill that made a statement against spending this money to perpetuate this illegal NATO war, and yet it was explicitly removed from the bill. I think this is reason to question the efforts on this rule. Certainly it should challenge all of us on the final passage of this bill, because much of this money will not be spent on the national defense, but to perpetuate war, which is a direct distraction from our national defense because it involves increasing threats to our national security. It does not protect our national security.

It might be well to also note that this bill does not do much more for fiscal conservatives. The President asked for a certain amount for the defense of this country, but we have seen fit to raise him more than \$8 billion, spend more money, more money that is so often not spent in our national defense. At the same time, we must also remember that when we vote on this bill, and this rule allows it, more than \$10 billion will be in excess of the budget agreement of 1997.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS).

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, we must defeat this rule today. We must defeat it because it lets down the American people. It forbids this House from voting on vital changes to policies and procedures of the Department of Energy, procedures that have led directly to the loss of some of our Nation's most valuable secrets.

Let me read to my colleagues a list of some of the national security protections the House will not be allowed to vote on today if this rule passes.

The House will not be allowed to vote to double penalties on the traitors who betray our Nation by divulging our secrets. The House will not be allowed to vote to ensure that seasoned FBI counterintelligence professionals are hired at the national labs to perform counterintelligence. The House will not be allowed to vote to ensure that never again are counterintelligence agents forced to stand by, unable to search the office or computer of a spy while our Nation's secrets are being poured straight into the arms of potential adversaries.

The House will not be allowed to vote to give the Secretary of Energy the authority to expedite polygraphing of people with access to our most sensitive nuclear secrets, even if the Secretary believes that doing so is vital to protect our national security.

The House will not be allowed to vote to protect individuals who risked their own careers by bringing to light security lapses at DOE before more secrets are lost. The House will not be allowed to vote to require a comprehensive outside analysis of computer vulnerabilities at the national labs. And the House will not be allowed to vote to require a red team from the FBI and the NSA to find open ways into DOE's classified system and close them.

Mr. Speaker, it is simply an outrage that the House has been denied a vote on these measures. But what is most disappointing is the reason why this has been done. The flaw which kept the House from voting for any of these measures is that they were part of a bipartisan bill which was agreed to by both Republicans and Democrats; thoughtful national security experts, like the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY), the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) joined with me and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT), the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER), and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER).

Combined, these Members have over 50 years of service on National Security Committees of the House, but we were denied because we chose to work together.

I also understand that an amendment offered by two Republican full committee chairmen and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the longest serving and one of the most respected Members of this House, who warned everyone about problems at DOE when everything we have lost today could have still been saved, was denied a vote in the House.

Today is a low day for the House, Mr. Speaker, unless we turn back this rule and start over.

The gentleman from California (Mr. COX) and I worked very hard together on a bipartisan basis to bring to this House our best recommendations on what could be done to improve national security at these labs, and I am very