I rise today in opposition to the conference report for Defense Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2000. This bill is replete with budget gimmicks that seek to mask the true cost of funding the Department of Defense, such as declaring billions of spending to be an arbitrary "emergency" and delaying payments to defense contractors. Unfortunately, those gimmicks cannot hide the fact that this bill exceeds the Pentagon's request by $8 billion, with much of that money spent on unnecessary and even unrequested projects such as $264.3 million for the C-130 airplane and $375 million to build the LHD-8 ship in Mississippi. This bill also does not meet our commitments to fund current peacekeeping operations or reconstruction in Kosovo. This sends a disturbing message to the rest of the world that we are not willing to keep our promises to our allies in times of crisis. For these reasons, among others, I am voting against this conference report.