Boston Light Automation postponement + Lighthouse Policy Review – Senate Bill (Kennedy)

for a program budget, and also do not permit normal and regular review of the geographical nature of Coast Guard expenditures. The Committee understands that the Coast Guard and the Department of Transportation are attempting to remedy these deficiencies. The Committee is considering requesting the General Accounting Office to work with the Coast Guard and the Department, and to provide the Committee with an initial assessment and regular progress reports on the new systems being developed.

In addition, the budget justification does not reflect funding amounts included in the base from prior years. The 1991 justification needs to be substantially improved, and the Coast Guard has committed to reviewing the Committees needs for additional information. The Committee staff will work with the Department and Coast Guard staff to improve this situation.

COMMITTEE FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommendation for Coast Guard operating expenses is $2,252,000,000, including $300,000,000 to be transferred from the Department of Defense, and including $30,000,000 from the "Boat safety" account. This is $200.000 below the budget estimate, and the same as the appropriation approved by the House.

After adjusting for anticipated DOD transfers, the Committee recommendation provides an increase of $127,384,000 (or plus 6 percent) over 1989 appropriations to date. This increase will fund nonpay cost-of-living adjustments (budgeted at 3.6 percent) and pay other increase adjusments without the need for programmatic reductions or station closures justified on the basis of inadequate funding. Consequently, the Committee has included bill language concerning closures.

The Committee allowance assumes that $300,000,000 shall be made available to the Coast Guard from the Department of Defense in 1990, in furtherance of the Coast Guard's national defense responsibilities, including drug interdiction.

Included in the allowance are the following adjustments to the budget:

Double counting of inflation adjustments made to Department of Defense appropriations transferred to the Coast Guard	−$7,200,000
Funds included in 1990 budget ($259,000) for operation of Bahamian docking facility, are not needed for this purpose. A mobile support facility, consisting primarily of existing cutters operating in the area, was used instead	−259,000
Funds expended in fiscal year 1989 for clean-up activities on the *Exxon Valdez* spill, which have been reimbursed by Exxon. Committee action in 1989 supplemental provides that these funds are available in fiscal year 1990 for operating expenses	−10,000,000
Follow-on for 100-foot Island Class not justified. Follow-on funding of almost $11,000,000 provided in 1989, which has been retained in the base	−2,731,000
The proposed vessel identification system is a newly authorized program. Allowance retains $3,500,000 to initiate activity. Committee will consider restoring $1,500,000 for development activities in 1991	−1,500,000
SLUC freeze	−4,875,000
Coast Guard is directed to postpone automation of Boston light until completion of lighthouse policy review and funds are budgeted	−100,000
Land based aerostats will not be operational as anticipated	−9,250,000

Communication support to aerostat funding not needed, due to schedule slippage	-350,000
Forward base to be established at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, is expected to slip	-2,500,000
Subtotal, reductions	-38,765,000
Equalization of Coast Guard pay provisions with other Department of Defense agencies and other unanticipated program cost increases	+35,230,000
Improved surveillance, system operation, maintenance and communication improvements to be made to the ocean dumping surveillance system in New York/New Jersey area	+400,000
Improved action plan for floatable material in New York Harbor/light area, including air and water surveillance and removal efforts	+1,000,000
Oversight of transportation (surveillance, enforcement, permits, et cetera) of garbage in coastal waters, and other Shore Protection Act costs	+1,000,000
Relocation of computer center from Governors Island, NY, to Martinsburg, WV	+900,000
Coast Guard to retain staffing at Boston Light during fiscal 1990 (from within available funds), and is to conduct a review of its ownership, maintenance, staffing, and site policies regarding lighthouses, which is to include participation by maritime and lighthouse preservation groups as well as mainstream preservation groups. The Coast Guard shall task a senior officer not affiliated with any operating program to lead the study	+35,000
Subtotal, increases	+38,565,000
Total, changes	-200,000

It is the Committee's understanding that $15,000,000 was provided for operation of the land-based aerostats in 1989, and that, even though this amount was specifically budgeted and funds were specifically provided, the Coast Guard internally reprogrammed $4,500,000 for other purposes without notifying the Committee. The Committee intends to review this situation, and to determine if the existing reprogramming guidelines are adequate for effective congressional oversight. The Committee hopes to be able to include the current reprogramming guidelines in the conference report, to be available for future reference.

The Committee also understands that the President's budget includes an allowance of $17,000,000 under functional code 920 for Coast Guard pay increases. The Committee intends to determine if these funds can be made available to the Coast Guard in 1990, thereby potentially reducing the pay need from $38,000,000 to $21,000,000.

The Committee notes that no funds were budgeted for hurricane reconnaissance aircraft and no funds are included for that purpose.

DRUG INTERDICTION

The Committee recommendation fully funds the administration's requested level of $567,000,000, compared to $492,000,000 provided in 1989.

The Committee requests the Coast Guard to submit a report to the Committee within 90 days, analyzing the impact of the President's new drug plan (announced on September 5, 1990) on Coast Guard interdiction efforts, especially including an analysis of interdiction versus demand reduction efforts Governmentwide.