

EDWARD M. KENNEDY
MASSACHUSETTS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 5, 1973

Mr. Paul E. Healy
City Clerk
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

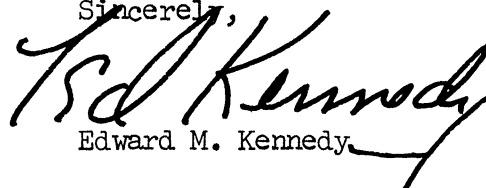
Dear Mr. Healy:

Thank you very much for your comments on defense spending. They were helpful to me during consideration of the military procurement authorization, and I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the bill as it was passed by the Senate.

While we were successful in accomplishing some reductions in troop levels abroad and in reducing funds for military procurement by \$500 million, other amendments to bring defense spending down to reasonable levels were unfortunately defeated. Among the reductions I supported were efforts to slow the development of the \$1.3 billion Trident nuclear missile submarine, the construction of another nuclear aircraft carrier, the F-14 aircraft, an amendment to cut \$750 million from the overall authorization, and an amendment placing a ceiling on Defense Department expenditures equivalent to fiscal 1973 levels. Heavy Administration and Defense Department opposition led to the narrow defeat of all these amendments.

I will continue to work for restraint in the pursuit of additional weapons systems that are irrelevant to our strategic deterrent - a deterrent which is already awesome in its power. Excessive military spending has contributed to inflation, weakened the dollar and jeopardized the economic health of this nation. And until we bring these expenditures under control and recognize that the security of this country is not measured by the number of dollars spent for weapons, we will not be able to restore the confidence of the people in their government, nor will we be able to reallocate these resources to the growing agenda of unmet domestic needs. The narrow margin by which so many of the proposed reductions were defeated is a clear indication to me of the growing consensus that the place to start building true security is by paying greater attention to our domestic economy and social problems, and I will be directing my efforts towards this end.

Sincerely,


Edward M. Kennedy

24.

402

Comm. from Senator Ted Kennedy
acknowledging receipt of the resolution
relative to the Trident nuclear missile
submarine.

In City Council,
Oct. 29, 1973
October 15, 1973

*Copies put in pkgs.
10/12/73 all*