

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1987

SEPTEMBER 17 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 15), 1986.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Appropriations,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2827]

The Committee on Appropriations reports the bill (S. 2827) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1987, and for other purposes, and submits the following explanation of its recommendations. Information is herewith presented relative to changes made:

COMMITTEE ADJUSTMENTS

Small business MRE Program.—To increase the number of Defense Industrial Preparedness Program [IPP] assemblers for the Meals-Ready-To-Eat [MRE] Program, the Army encouraged businesses to bid on MRE contracts. IPP assemblers are those who have the capability to assemble cases of MRE's rapidly during wartime. There are currently four such IPP assemblers. Over the past 3 years, two small businesses have been brought into the MRE Program. After having brought the first small business into the MRE Program, a year later another small business was allowed in. After only one contract, the Defense Department has decided to reduce the number of assemblers from four to three. This will have the effect of forcing one of the two small businesses out of the program with a large loss of jobs and skills. The Committee directs the Department of Defense to award contracts for MRE VII to those industrial prepared assemblers currently in the program.

MAKING CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 1987

CONFERENCE REPORT

TO ACCOMPANY

H.J. RES. 738



SMALL BUSINESS MRE PROGRAM

The Senate bill directed the Department of Defense to award contracts for the Meals-Ready-To-Eat (MRE) program to those industrial prepared assemblers currently in the program and to not reduce the number of assemblers from four to three. The House did not address this issue. The Conferees believe that it is in the national interest to maximize the number of small business suppliers. The Department shall consider the impact on the existing MRE industrial prepared assemblers in its determination of future MRE acquisition plans.

OCTOBER 15, 1986.—Ordered to be printed