

LES AUCOIN
1ST DISTRICT, OREGON



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

January 27, 1983

Dear Friend:

Because we share a commitment to arms control and have worked together toward that goal, I want you to be among the first to know of my decision to join Defense Appropriations Subcommittee -- the subcommittee that controls the Pentagon's budget.

This step puts me in the thick of the budget fight in the 98th Congress, and materially strengthens my hand in fighting for the values to which you and I are dedicated. I make this move at a time when Ronald Reagan is asking Congress to expand the defense budget by 14%, compared to 3% for domestic affairs. As one who is committed to freezing the development, testing and deployment of nuclear weapons, I oppose those priorities which are leading us to nuclear and economic disaster.

For too long in Congress, and especially on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, the military has had carte blanche. My appointment was encouraged by mainstream Democrats in the House who were eager to give Subcommittee Chairman Joe Addabbo (New York) an ally in the fight for a rational defense budget. The grim reality is that of the seven Democrats on the committee only Mr. Addabbo has been a consistent critic of runaway defense spending. Had I not made this move, the "hawks" would have added one more to their number. For us, the challenge is to examine military spending at every level to force the Pentagon to stop unneeded weapons, eliminate fraud and bring down cost overruns. That's the key to both physical and economic survival.

This will be a difficult task and I am anxious to participate fully in what I believe to be the major battle before this Congress and this country. I hope I will continue to receive your ideas and suggestions as I begin this work.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Les".

LES AUCOIN
Member of Congress

LA: jw