Both Brooke and Tsongas voted for final passage of the Defense Procurement Authorization Bill (HR 10929) containing \$2.1 billion for a nuclear powered aircraft carrier. Tsongas voted for an amendment offered by Carr (D-Mich.) to delete funds for the carrier. This amendment was rejected 106-293. There was no amendment to delete the nuclear carrier funds offered on the Senate floor.

Carter stated in his August 17th press conference that his veto was "not a question of money...It's a question of how that money is going to be spent." The President believes that the funds would be better spent for projects related to the U.S. commitment to N.A.T.O. and for the combat-readiness of forces already in the field. Also, building another big carrier would continue the trend toward a smaller number of very large Navy ships, a trend which the President believes to be contrary to the effectiveness of our national defense policy.

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