

Sen. Trent Lott Calls Navy

In remarks published by The Mississippi Press on September 11, 2004, U.S. Sen. Trent Lott characterized Navy officials for showing "weak leadership" in the shipbuilding area after reports surfaced about the Navy's proposal to build just four ships during fiscal 2006 as opposed to nine in 2005. "You can't go from building nine ships this year to building four in '06," he said. "We're not meeting our needs now and we have this tremendous bow wave ahead of us where ships are being retired twice as fast as we're replacing them." The article quoted Lott, who called the proposal extremely troublesome "and frankly, very disappointing to me that the leadership in the navy, the chief of naval operations and the secretary of the navy are even deigning to make such a proposal because it is so irresponsible." Lott added that the proposal was a "really bad budget proposal," adding that members of both houses of Congress were going to be conveying their thoughts on it.