

Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District. When enacted, this legislation will save the BOR, and therefore the Nation's taxpayers, money that would otherwise be spent fighting with the irrigation district in court. The administration supports the legislation.

The reason for quick action on this legislation is the fact that the settlement between the irrigation district and the BOR requires enactment of the legislation by April 15, 1997. If the legislation is not enacted by that date, the irrigation district would have to refile its claim against the Government, and we'd be right back where we started—in court. As a result, Chairman MURKOWSKI, and Senators BUMPERS and KYL have carefully considered my request for quick action and have noted the unique circumstances surrounding this legislation. I would like to thank Senators MURKOWSKI, BUMPER, and KYL for working with me to get this legislation passed quickly. This is truly a unique situation, which calls for quick action.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 412) was passed.

MEASURE JOINTLY REFERRED— S. 468

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senate bill 468, which was introduced on March 18, be jointly referred to the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR RECORD TO REMAIN OPEN UNTIL 7 P.M.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD remain open until 7 p.m. for the introduction of bills and statements.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 1997

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until the hour of 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 9. I further ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted and that there be a period of morning business until the hour of 1 p.m. with Senators to speak therein for up to 5 minutes

each, with the following exceptions: Senator THOMAS, 30 minutes; Senator GRASSLEY, 30 minutes; Senator WYDEN, 20 minutes; Senator DASCHLE or his designee, 10 minutes; Senator CAMPBELL, 10 minutes; Senator LAUTENBERG, 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, tomorrow, following morning business, at 1 p.m. the Senate will begin consideration of S. 104, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. It is our hope that the Senate will be able to make substantial progress on S. 104 during Wednesday's session of the Senate. All Members can, therefore, anticipate rollcall votes throughout tomorrow's session and into the evening, if necessary.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that following the statement of the Senator from Illinois, the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

SCHOOL FUNDING

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, a recent gathering of millionaires and billionaires at an economic conference in Switzerland underscored the importance of education in the global economy of the new millennium. In this information age, they concluded, the distinction between the haves and have nots will be the distinction between the knows and know nots. As it is with individuals, so it is with nations.

We have documented the difference that education credentials make in the average earnings of American workers. High school graduates make 46 percent more every year than those who do not graduate. College graduates earn 155 percent more every year than those who do not complete high school. Over the course of a lifetime, the most educated Americans will earn five times as much as the least educated.

Access to quality public education has been the cornerstone of the American meritocracy, providing people with more talent than means with the opportunity for economic success in most fields of endeavor. The rungs on the ladder of opportunity are crafted in the classroom.

To focus solely on the individual advantage of educational opportunity, however, is to miss the point of its importance to society as a whole. Edu-

cation is a public good, not just a private benefit, and its relevance to the community transcends its importance to the person. It directly correlates to almost every indicia of societal well-being. Health status, support for the arts and cultural activities, and participation in our democratic institutions increase with educational attainment; while social instability, pathologies, and demand for transfer payments increase in its absence. We all have a direct and personal stake in the availability of educational opportunity for every child.

The conference in Switzerland, however, touched on yet another aspect of the public value of education—its role in the development of a work force prepared for the external changes technology has created. It has been argued the United States was able to beat the global competition in the industrial age because of the high quality of our work force. It is an open question whether we will continue to enjoy such advantage in the information age. In this international competition, older industrial societies will find themselves in direct competition with the second-, third-, and even fourth-world societies that may have skipped industrialization altogether. We can choose either to compete with cheap labor worldwide and guarantee a decline in living standards here, or we can ensure that our work force has the high-skill, sophisticated productivity that will command a living wage in this global economy. It was very interesting to me that during the recent debate about immigration, some of the most influential voices against restricting legal immigration came from Silicon Valley and the high-technology business community: They argued there was a shortage of American workers trained for their work, and they would be unable to maintain their competitive position if limited in the option of importing talent, so the need to educate our work force, as a society and a country, has never been more important.

And so we are faced with a challenge of more monumental proportions than ever before. President Clinton recently referred to education as central to our national security. Yet, we still approach education generally, and education funding in particular, with the perspective of an age long past. Schools are still paid for primarily through the local property tax. Elementary and secondary education has long been almost the exclusive preserve of State and local government, and there has traditionally been a resistance to the National Government having anything to do with the circumstances in which Johnny learns to read.

Such a view misses the changes that have transformed the world and brought us closer together. We have, now more than ever, a community interest that calls for cooperation among and between all of the instruments of our collective will. National, State,