

we should consider a proposal such as means testing until we have other viable alternatives in place such as medical savings accounts, to give middle-income seniors a way to better afford their Medicare and health services. In my judgment, to immediately implement the proposal in the bill would unfairly pull the rug out from under middle-income seniors without adequate notice or the provision of a legitimate option. This isn't fair.

To me, a \$50,000 income isn't wealthy. Moreover, many seniors who would have their premiums dramatically increased have carefully prepared and planned their retirements. Their incomes may already be committed to maintaining the mortgage and upkeep of a home, support of relatives, or saving for special nursing home care and so on. To change the rules this substantially and in the middle of the game, with no time for adjustment is wrong.●

HARRISVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, A 1997 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Harrisville Elementary School of Harrisville, WV. This fine public school was recently selected as a 1997 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education. It was 1 of 7 elementary schools in my State to receive this prestigious award, and 1 of 38 West Virginia schools that have been recognized since the National Blue Ribbon School Program began in 1982.

Schools are judged on curriculum, leadership, teaching environment, student performance on standardized tests, parent and community support, graduation rates and post graduation pursuits. Harrisville Elementary's goal is "to educate all students to their maximum abilities." Although 65 percent of the students are from low socioeconomic backgrounds, a high level of achievement is expected of all students. Along with Principal Marion Roby; teachers, support staff, parents, and community members work together to provide students with quality learning experiences. This dedication to student success and academic excellence is evident in the remarkable growth the students have achieved. Student total battery scores on the CTBS/4 test have increased from the 47th percentile to the 88th percentile.

Located in the north-central part of the State, Harrisville Elementary School was the first school in Ritchie County to have a networked computer lab where all students have daily scheduled class. The students also participate in STARS (Special Time with At-Risk Students) and take part in GATORS (Guiding Attitudes Toward Outstanding Responsible Students). These two staff designed programs promote life-long decisionmaking skills and build self esteem. The school piloted a comprehensive health program,

Know Your Body, which was later adopted by the rest of the country. The school's staff is one of the best in the State with four Ritchie County Teachers of the Year, including the 1996 honoree.

As a National Blue Ribbon School, Harrisville Elementary School is a role model for other schools across the country on how teachers, administrators, parents and students can work together to create an educational environment that helps children excel. Everyone in the Harrisville community should be proud of the notoriety that their local institution has achieved. It is my pleasure to publicly congratulate this school for its commitment to academic success. I know that this school will continue its good work and represent West Virginia proudly on a national level.●

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY SUMMER AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE

● Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, it is with considerable pride I share with you today an educational program that is bringing hope and insight to students in Oregon. It is characterized by voluntarism, authentic educational programs, and community involvement. The program itself, and its individual parts, serves as a model for educational reforms throughout our Nation.

The Oregon State University Summer Agricultural Institute, which is currently in its 8th year, consists of teachers taking a week long course designed to enhance their understanding of agriculture in Oregon. After a day of initial study at the university, teachers are immersed in authentic, hands-on learning. They visit actual working farms and ranches, processing plants, forestry sites, and dairy farms. Additionally, each teacher spends 1 night with a family that owns and operates a farm or ranch. Teachers in the program also experience a day of role reversal as they become the students of boys and girls involved in Future Farmers of America. The teachers learn how relevant and meaningful learning takes place in the lives of these young people as they farm and raise animals.

Teachers must pay a small fee for the class but the overwhelming majority of costs are met through donations. These gifts of money, time, and resources by agricultural communities in Oregon provide the financial backbone of the program.

The institute ends with a dinner where teachers are given the opportunity to share their reflections on the week. During this evening it is common for teachers to share an increased sense of appreciation for agriculture. The advanced level of education possessed by farmers and ranchers, their commitment to responsible stewardship of the land, and their incredible work ethic leave the teachers not only impressed but touched. One teacher tearfully remarked, "Oregon's land is in good hands. Thank you."

Teachers leave the week with the necessary knowledge and motivation to develop meaningful curricula related to agriculture in Oregon. Lafona Jensen, the chairwoman of the program, Karen Stephenson, the coordinator of the program, and Dr. Lee Cole, the instructor of record, are individuals making a genuine difference in the lives of young people in Oregon.

I strongly encourage States with similar agricultural interests as Oregon to look closely at this program. The Oregon State University Summer Agricultural Institute is a model for communities desiring to design educational programs that promote authentic learning and an appreciation for the important role agriculture plays in our society.●

NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar 80, Senate Resolution 63.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 63) proclaiming the week of October 19 through 25, 1997, as "National Character Counts Week."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appear in the RECORD at this point.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 63) was considered and agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 63

Whereas young people will be the stewards of our communities, Nation, and world in critical times, and the present and future well-being of our society requires an involved, caring citizenry with good character;

Whereas concerns about the character training of children have taken on a new sense of urgency as violence by and against youth threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the Nation;

Whereas more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young people are taught the importance of good character and that character counts in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good

character and, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by institutions and individuals that influence youth to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play a very important role in supporting family efforts by fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas the Senate encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the valuable role our youth play in the present and future of our Nation and to recognize that character is an important part of that future;

Whereas in July 1992, the Aspen Declaration was written by an eminent group of educators, youth leaders, and ethics scholars for the purpose of articulating a coherent framework for character education appropriate to a diverse and pluralistic society;

Whereas the Aspen Declaration states, "Effective character education is based on core ethical values which form the foundation of democratic society.";

Whereas the core ethical values identified by the Aspen Declaration constitute the 6 core elements of character;

Whereas the 6 core elements of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship;

Whereas the 6 core elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the Aspen Declaration states, "The character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society; therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model the core ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character.";

Whereas the Senate encourages individuals and organizations, especially those who have an interest in the education and training of our youth, to adopt the 6 core elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society as a whole; and

Whereas the Senate encourages communities, especially schools and youth organizations, to integrate the 6 core elements of character into programs serving students and children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) proclaims the week of October 19 through October 25, 1997, as "National Character Counts Week"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and interested groups to embrace the 6 core elements of character and to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

AUTHORIZATION TO CORRECT ERRORS IN ENGROSSMENT OF S. 936

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator THURMOND, I ask unanimous consent that the Secretary be authorized to correct errors in the engrossment of the act, S. 936, the Defense authorization bill for the fiscal year 1998, which I send to the desk.

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

The material follows:

On page 487, after line 3, insert the following:

SEC. 1091. REVIEW OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE PRESENCE OF THE ARMED FORCES IN BERMUDA.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on any remaining environmental effects of the presence of the Armed Forces of the United States in Bermuda.

On page 569, strike out line 3 and all that follows through line 10 on page 570 and insert in lieu thereof the following:

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—Subject to the provisions of this section and notwithstanding any other law, the Secretary of the Army may convey, without consideration, by fee simple absolute deed to Harnett County, North Carolina, all right, title, and interest of the United States of America in and to one parcel of land, Tract No. 404-2, containing approximately 157 acres, more or less, located at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, together with any improvements thereon, for educational purposes.

(b) SALE AUTHORIZED.—Subject to the provisions of this section and notwithstanding any other law, the Secretary of the Army may convey, at fair market value, by fee simple absolute deed to Harnett County, North Carolina, all right, title, and interest of the United States of America in and to one parcel of land, Tract No. 404-1, containing 137 acres, more or less, located at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, together with any improvements thereon.

(c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The conveyance or sale by the United States under this section shall be subject to the following conditions to protect the interests of the United States:

(1) The County shall pay all costs associated with the conveyance or sale authorized by this section, including but not limited to environmental analysis and documentation, survey costs and recording fees.

(2) Notwithstanding the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.) or any other law, the County, and not the United States, shall be responsible for any environmental restoration or remediation required on the property conveyed or sold, and the United States shall be forever released and held harmless from any obligation to conduct such restoration or remediation and any claims or causes of action stemming from such remediation.

(d) REVERSION.—If the Secretary determines at any time that the real property conveyed pursuant to subsection (a) is not being used for the purpose specified in that subsection, all right, title, and interest in and to the property, including any improvements thereon, shall revert to the United States, and the United States shall have the right of immediate entry thereon.

(e) LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF REAL PROPERTY AND PAYMENT OF COSTS.—The exact acreage and legal description of the real property described in subsections (a) and (b) shall be determined by a survey or surveys, the costs of which the County shall bear.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 15, 1997

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it stand in adjournment until the hour of

10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 15. I further ask that on Tuesday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted, and the Senate then proceed to a period of morning business until the hour of 11 a.m. with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes with the following exceptions:

Senator MURKOWSKI, 15 minutes;
Senators HAGEL and CLELAND sharing 20 minutes.

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

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that at 11 a.m. the Senate resume consideration of S. 1005, the Defense Department authorization bill.

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

Mr. STEVENS. I further ask unanimous consent that from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. the Senate recess for the weekly policy luncheons to meet.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, the leader asked that all Members be informed that tomorrow the Senate will be in a period of morning business until the hour of 11 a.m.

By previous consent, at 11 a.m. the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1005, the Department of Defense appropriations bill with only those amendments listed this evening under our unanimous-consent agreement being in order. Following the disposition of those amendments the Senate will proceed to a vote on final passage of the Department of Defense appropriations bill. Hopefully that will be by early afternoon. By consent, the Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. for the weekly policy luncheons to meet. Following that recess, the Senate will hopefully begin consideration of the energy and water appropriations bill.

Senators should keep in mind that the Senate hopes to complete action on three to four major appropriations bills this week. Therefore, late sessions can be expected, and votes should be anticipated throughout each day of the Senate session. On behalf of the leadership, we thank our colleagues for the cooperation of the Senate today.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, if my friend from Hawaii has no further business to raise, and if there be no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask that the Senate stand in adjournment as under the previous order.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:43 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, July 15, 1997, at 10 a.m.