Lest I overwhelm young Augustus with the great weight of such high expectations and such intimations of immortality, I hasten to wish him a happy childhood, complete with much exploring, great adventures, barked knees, of quiet moments of wonder and learning, of great books to be shared with his parents and grandparents, and of countless hugs and kisses. Be a boy, Augustus, with moments good and bad, tender and terrible like the Augustus in these lines by Heinrich Hoffman (1809-1874), who said:

Augustus was a chubby lad;  
Fat ruddy cheeks Augustus had;  
And every ball he wound with joy!  
The plump and hearty, healthy boy.  
He ate and drank as he was told,  
And never let his soup go cold.  
But one day, one winter's day,  
He screamed out, 'Take the soup away!  
O take the nasty soup away!  
I won't have soup to-day.'  

Welcome, young emperor, and carry on, bringing ever your illustrious grandfather under your sway with the dictatorial charms of a much loved child.

I yield the floor.

Mr. STEVENS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I am uncharacteristically speechless. I think—to listen to my good friend talk about my latest grandchild—he is absolutely right in one thing; and that is, there is nothing so humbling as to look at a baby and realize what that child means. Senator BYRD told me at a grandchild and realize what thattouch infinity. And it is a very sobering thing to think about. But it is a joy to have these grandchildren. If one must get old, it helps a lot.

I thank the Senator very much. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following amendment be added:

Amendment No. 3388

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Thomas). Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2312, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2312) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, and the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

McConnell amendment No. 3379, to provide for amendment length for the staff director and general counsel of the Federal Election Commission.

Glenn amendment No. 3390, to provide additional funding for enforcement activities of the Federal Election Commission.

Graham amendment No. 3381, to provide funding for the Central Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following amendment be added:

Amendment No. 3397, to provide for an adjustment in the computation of annuities for certain Federal officers and employees relating to average pay determinations.

Campbell amendment No. 3386, to protect Federal law enforcement officers who intervene in certain situations to Protect life or prevent bodily injury.

Harkin amendment No. 3387, to provide additional funding to reduce methamphetamine usage in High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas.

Kohl (for Kerrey) amendment No. 3389, to express the sense of the Senate regarding payroll tax.

Mr. TORRISCELLI. Mr. President, yesterday I engaged in a colloquy with Senators KOHL and MOSELEY-BRAUN regarding the intent of report language in S. 2312 concerning tax standards for tax-exempt health clubs. In that colloquy, I stated that my expectation was that the report would “focus on health clubs and for-profit fitness organizations that serve only adults.” However, both tax-exempt health clubs and for-profit health clubs serve entire families including young adults and children. While I believe the report should clearly distinguish services provided by tax-exempt organizations, tax-exempt organizations also offer non-adult service. The fact that they offer service to non-adults does not qualify an entity for tax-exempt status. Therefore, to define “adult fitness” as an “adult fitness program” would drastically restrict the usefulness of this report in providing guidance to Congress. Again, I want to emphasize that my intent here is only for the IRS to provide Congress guidance in this area.

Therefore, I want to clarify that it is my expectation that the report will reflect the language in the report accompanying S. 2312. I re-emphasize the words of yesterday’s colleagues as well as this clarification. Again, I want to thank Senators CAMPBELL and KOHL for their assistance on this and I look forward to working with them and all other interested Senators and parties on this issue.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to ask unanimous consent that my name be added as a cosponsor to amendment number #3388 to the FY 1999 Treasury-Postal Appropriations legislation currently under consideration. This amendment is a combination of several amendments aimed at increasing support for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas administered by the Office of National Drug Control Policy. The Midwest HIDTA program has been extremely helpful to cracking down on drug trafficking in my rural state by coordinating federal, state and local law enforcement efforts to combat methamphetamine trafficking. While the Campbell-Kohl amendment addresses HIDTA programs nationwide, the Midwest HIDTA will be increased by $3.5 million, bringing the total methamphetamine elimination funding to $13 million for the Midwestern States of South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas. The amendment will also add North Dakota to the Midwest HIDTA program which is crucial to tightening law enforcement’s grip on meth traffickers in the Dakotas. I appreciate the efforts of my colleagues from Colorado and Wisconsin for recognizing that drug trafficking is not a uniquely coastal or urban problem, and that federal coordination and assistance is necessary for fighting drug use and trafficking nationwide.

DENVER COURTHOUSE

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I rise to discuss an important funding issue contained in the Treasury and General Government appropriations bill. This appropriations bill provides $84 million for construction of an annex to the Rogers Courthouse in Denver. In addition, the General Services Administration has included this project high on its list of priorities, at the recommendation of the Administrative Offices of the Courts. GSA and the AOC have provided me with detailed information on the costs of this courthouse and assured me repeatedly that these costs are prudent, practical and necessary to meet the future judicial needs of Colorado. I have also been assured that the renovated courthouse will be functional, but not extravagant. I have demanded this of every project on the list and will continue to work to ensure that this standard is applied to all new construction. Members of the federal bench in Colorado have expressed gratitude that I have included construction money for the Rogers Courthouse. I am of course happy to help meet the needs of our federal legal system, especially in my rural state. I appreciate the efforts of my colleagues, members of the Federal Bar, the Administrative Office of the Courts, GSA and the AOC in working with them and all other interested parties on this issue.
Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw amendment No. 3385.

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

The amendment (No. 3385) was withdrawn.

Mr. STEVENS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

AMENDMENT NO. 3379

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The first vote is on amendment No. 3379.

Mr. STEVENS. Have the yeas and nays been ordered?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. They have been ordered.

This is the McConnell amendment. There are 2 minutes equally divided.

Mr. GLENN. Mr. President, I urged last night on the table. This would really knock the socks off any election law enforcement over at the FEC. We oppose this very much. It would mean there would be a restriction on the FEC that is not on any other agency or department of government. As their general counsel goes and their staff director.

The efforts to oust him over there, I think, are unconvincing. He has been doing a good job. This just stands starkly opposed to our efforts for campaign finance reform.

At the appropriate time I will move to table this, but I yield the remaining time to Senator LEVIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this amendment is directly aimed at the independence of the Federal Election Commission. It is aimed at no other commission. Its purpose is obvious—to eliminate a general counsel who has taken an independent position, following the Federal Election Commission’s decision relative to soft money and other issues. We should not muzzles them. We should not throttle them. We should not destroy their independence.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the amendment is really quite simple. The Federal Election Commission is like no other commission of the Federal Government. It has three Republicans and three Democrats. The general counsel, under the current system, could serve for a lifetime. All the McConnell amendment does is require that every 4 years the general counsel come up for reappointment and not be reappointed unless he can achieve at least four votes, thereby demonstrating to the full Commission that this individual possesses the qualifications—enough confidence to continue for another 4-year term.

This guarantees that the general counsel will operate in a bipartisan manner, because a general counsel who, after 4 years, could not achieve votes from both parties, it seems to this Senator, clearly would fail a test of bipartisanship.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to disagree to the pending Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bill as early as possible—hopefully, even tonight—which will allow us time to work on some nominations and allow Senators to attend the funeral tomorrow and adjourn for the recess at a reasonable hour tomorrow, or earlier if there is any way of doing it.

I ask unanimous consent that the pending Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bill be laid aside, not to recur prior to September 1, unless agreement is worked out in the meantime. There is hope that could be done. Maybe we could act on it after the Dodd-Specter amendments but unless an agreement is worked out, it would be September 1. And no call for the regular order serves to displace the treasury bill, when it is pending in September, in the status quo.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, just for purposes of clarification, this would lock into place the current situation. The pending amendment would be, of course, the McConnell amendment. Senators wishing to offer amendments in the second degree subject to recognition would be recognized as authors of amendments in the second degree.

It is with that understanding that I do not object. I am sure the majority leader would clarify and would conform with that understanding.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, that is correct. Second-degree amendments would be in order. We are freezing everything in place. We would not take it up again before September unless an agreement were worked out. When we do go back to it, we will be right where we are now, and second-degree amendments will be in order.

Mr. GLENN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I don’t plan to object, I want to clarify, this would in no way affect the voting order we agreed to last night on other amendments?

Mr. LOTT. Everything would be just like it is at this very moment on this appropriations bill.

Mr. GLENN. Thank you.

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

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The Senate continued with consideration of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the defense bill.