

Mr. LEAHY. There are no objections, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3494) was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LEAHY. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, those are the only amendments I am aware of as of this moment. So we are moving right along, I say to my friend.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I say to my friend from Kentucky, I said earlier we did it in record time last year. We may break that now. Again, I am perfectly willing to go forward and wrap it up. There may be some who feel otherwise.

COMMUNITY-BASED TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mr. President, organizations such as the National Telephone Cooperative Association are able to help provide new and innovative methods to bring modern telecommunications service to rural and remote areas around the globe. Such initiatives, particularly those that encompass a grass-roots, community-based approach, are key to economic development, business creation and income generation. They enhance economic stability, create jobs, improve agricultural production and further the development of democratic processes and traditions.

The committee has, in the past, encouraged AID to work with organizations like the National Telephone Cooperative Association to bring modern means of communication to rural areas. Cooperatives foster community involvement and help to build civil society—important steps along the path away from a socialist, government-controlled economy toward a free-market economy. These programs are just the type that we should be promoting in the Ukraine and other NIS states, where any growth in the private sector represents a challenge to the government and encourages sustainable income generation and economic growth on a local level.

Another program that the committee urged AID to support was rural telephone cooperative programs in Poland, which have achieved significant success. The on-going program in the Philippines has also seen success. However, this project is in need of continued participation by AID's country and central programs. AID should also promote the development of telephone cooperatives in Africa. Countries in the Horn, Ghana, and South Africa are poised for developing useful rural telecommunications. There is no doubt that in addition to promoting economic growth, rural citizens in these countries would benefit enormously.

For these reasons, I encourage AID to continue to work with telephone cooperatives in the United States to fos-

ter community-based telecommunications programs in the developing countries. I hope that language to this effect can be included in the conference report on this bill.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TRIBUTE TO PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, while we have a moment, I would like to recognize an organization from my home state of Kentucky which has been on the front lines responding to international disasters.

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), headquartered in Louisville, has responded to international disaster issues in 37 countries and has mission relations in 80 countries. It is dedicated to responding to national and international disasters, aiding refugees and displaced persons, assisting refugee resettlement, educating the world's children, and making efforts designed to foster development abroad. Clearly, it has made a difference in the world and brought hope to the needy.

Just recently, following the tragic bombings in Kenya and Sudan, PDA provided the staff services of its eye clinic and specialized orthopedic rehabilitation center for victims. PDA also worked closely with the Presbyterian Relief and Development Association of Sudan.

In early summer, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, in cooperation with other organizations, was able to provide a shipment of fishing supplies to over 25,000 households in the Upper Nile Region where the ability to fish the rivers will keep these people from slipping into the grip of famine. PDA was able to serve people across several ethnic boundaries, ensuring that this assistance benefited those most in need.

Mr. President, I know the entire Senate joins me in saluting the courageous work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. It gives me a great deal of pride that this organization which offers such important and valuable service is headquartered in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. We all hope for a time when the efforts of organizations such as PDA are not necessary, but until that occurs we can take comfort that the job will be undertaken with vigor, compassion, and expertise.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 3495

(Purpose: To provide a limited waiver for certain foreign students of the requirement to reimburse local educational agencies for the costs of the students' education)

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL], for Mr. LUGAR, proposes an amendment numbered 3495.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 114, strike all after line 1 through page 115 line 6 and insert the following:

SEC. 578. LIMITED WAIVER OF REIMBURSEMENT REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN FOREIGN STUDENTS.

Section 214(l)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(l)(1)), as added by section 625(a)(1) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 3009-699), is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively;

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively;

(3) by striking "(l)(1)" and inserting "(l)(1)(A)"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(B) The Attorney General shall waive the application of subparagraph (A)(ii) for an alien seeking to pursue a course of study in a public secondary school served by a local educational agency (as defined in section 14101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8801) if the agency determines and certifies to the Attorney General that such waiver will promote the educational interest of the agency and will not impose an undue financial burden on the agency."

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this amendment has been cleared on this side of the aisle and, I believe, on the other side.

Mr. LEAHY. There is no objection on this side of the aisle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3495) was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LEAHY. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN LEBANON

Mr. ABRAHAM. Would the Senator from Kentucky yield for a question?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I would be happy to yield to the Senator from Michigan.

Mr. ABRAHAM. I want to thank the Senator from Kentucky for the interest