

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORZINE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

WORLD AIDS DAY

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, every December first since 1988, World AIDS Day has been a day dedicated to sending messages of compassion, hope, solidarity, and understanding.

Commemorating this day is a small but important gesture, and it is the least we can do in the face of the worst pandemic mankind has ever known. Yesterday, UNAIDS and the World Health Organization released a joint report that illustrates the enormity of the AIDS pandemic. The numbers are so staggering that they are almost incomprehensible. There are now 40 million people living with AIDS. Two point seven million of them are children. In the past year, there have been 5 million new HIV infections and 3 million AIDS deaths.

Many countries are seeing their future—embodied in their young people—ravaged by this disease. People under the age of 25 represent half of all new HIV infection cases, and there are now 10 million people between the ages of 15 and 24 living with HIV/AIDS. Every minute, five more young people are infected with HIV. As I have argued before, this is not just a humanitarian issue, it is also an economic and national security issue.

The International Labor Organization reports that by 2020, AIDS will reduce national workforces so much that countries with the highest rates of prevalence will see their GDPs drop by as much as 20 percent in the next 20 years. How can companies in these nations afford the increased costs for insurance, benefits, training, and illness in his environment?

The Food and Agriculture Organization reports that 7 million farm workers have died from AIDS-related causes since 1985, and 16 million more are expected to die in the next 20 years. How can these countries maintain—let alone increase—agricultural output under these circumstances?

The United Nations reports that in 1999, 860,000 students in sub-Saharan Africa lost their teachers to AIDS. How can countries educate their children with these losses? These numbers are a disturbing snapshot of the epidemic today. Tragically, they may only be the tip of the iceberg.

Experts tell us that the epidemic in many parts of the world is still in its early stages. Globally, most people infected are unaware they carry the virus. Many millions more know nothing about HIV and how to protect themselves against it. If we are ever to staunch the AIDS epidemic, we must continue—and increase—our efforts at prevention.

Since the 1980s, the United States has found prevention efforts such as school-based education, perinatal prevention programs, and screening the blood supply, to prove effective. As a member of the family of nations, we have to do a better job of promoting and supporting international prevention and education programs. We were able to take a positive step in the foreign operations appropriations bill, where the Senate added significant funds to invest in prevention programs around the globe.

I am hopeful the final bill will include those funds, but prevention and treatment must go hand in hand, because without treatment options, at-risk individuals have no incentive to submit to testing or to practice prevention. We have taken some positive steps in treating HIV/AIDS, but much more needs to be done. We have worked hard to invest \$300 million for the U.N. Global Trust Fund on AIDS, TB, and Malaria. While it is not nearly enough for this challenge, it is a significant first step.

As that fund is developed, we have to make sure that its resources are dedicated to fighting this disease on all fronts—including treatment. While there is pressure to limit the focus of the fund to prevention alone, that would be a mistake—and it would limit our ability to develop a comprehensive agenda to confront this pandemic.

The theme designated for this year's World AIDS Day is simply: "I care. Do you?" While our words today are important, it is our action every day—on all fronts, in all nations—that are the true measure of our caring. On this day, let us recommit ourselves to fighting, and ultimately defeating, this scourge.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for 4 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to my two friends I have certainly no problem with the Senator from New Mexico speaking for 4 minutes, and I understand my friend from Oklahoma wants to speak for 10. When we came in this morning, we made an announcement we would try to wrap up by 1:15 p.m. today. We would have tried to do it sooner, but with the cloture petitions pending Senators had until 1 p.m. today to file their amendments. We wanted to really wrap this up. The Dirksen Building is going to be closed off. In fact, the process is beginning now. By 4 p.m., it will be wrapped up.

I have a few things to do when the two Senators complete their statements, and then we will close the Senate. We did not ask for a unanimous consent this morning, thinking some-

thing such as this might happen, but we appreciate the cooperation and look forward to the statements of the two Senators.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from New Mexico be recognized for 5 minutes, the Senator from Oklahoma for 12 minutes, and that I be recognized to close the Senate following those statements.

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

STIMULATING THE ECONOMY

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, first I say to the occupant of the chair, the junior Senator from New Jersey, when he came to the Senate he brought with him a rather distinguished career in investment banking, as I understand it, with a specialization in bonds. Whatever the case may be, he brought with him a tremendous expertise with reference to the American economy. Therefore, it makes me doubly proud that the idea many people suggested to me, that ends up being called a Social Security withholding tax holiday for 1 month, is supported by the occupant of the chair, because I give a lot of credit to somebody who comes to the Senate from the business world, talks with the business world, talks with labor union people and comes up with an analysis of what will, indeed, be the best economic stimulus of those that have been presented that could be adopted before Christmas and be effective, regardless of the arguments, during the next 4 to 5 months. It clearly could be in full effect.

First, those who have supported me from the standpoint of business are in pretty good company. So whatever we hear from some, that this cannot be implemented and that maybe it is not a good idea, let me introduce a letter which I received on November 30. It is a very current letter. It is from the Business Roundtable. Now, the Business Roundtable has a lot of American business members. This letter comes from the president, John Castellani—good Italian American name. We had not spoken in advance of my amendment, but this letter, so everybody will know, is an unequivocal enforcement of the holiday as being the best economic stimulus and the best news to provide confidence in the American people and that will move the economy ahead in terms of what it needs to give it a jump start in these very difficult times.

We all know we ought to do two big things. One, we ought to pay for all the military needs of our country in a very good appropriations bill. The President has told us what he needs. We need to do that. I understand it will be done next week. That is good.

The other thing we have to do is pass a stimulus package. We do not have to pass a package that has a "stimulus" label on it. We have to pass one that could be sent out to the business community, to the others who know what is happening in the American marketplace, and ask them, will this actually