

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate insists on its amendments, requests a conference with the House, and the Chair appoints the following conferees.

The Acting President pro tempore appointed Mr. LEAHY, Mr. INOUE, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. REED, Mr. BYRD, Mr. GREGG, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BOND, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. COCHRAN conferees on the part of the Senate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Massachusetts.

COLLEGE COST REDUCTION AND ACCESS ACT—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I submit a report of the committee of conference on the bill (H.R. 2669) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2669), to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 601 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment, signed by a majority of the conferees of both Houses.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the proceedings of the House in the RECORD of today, September 6, 2007.)

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Massachusetts.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2007

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 8:55 a.m., Friday, September 7; that on Friday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that the Senate then resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2669, as provided for under a previous order.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that following the statement of Senator ENZI—I will make my statement in the morning—the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KENNEDY. I thank the Chair.

TRIBUTE TO ED MCGAFFIGAN

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, let me speak as in morning business about a dear friend who died this last Sunday, and that is Ed McGaffigan. Ed has been a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission now for over 10 years. He is the longest serving member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the history of our country. Prior to that, he was a staff member in my office working with me on foreign policy issues, on defense policy issues, on science and technology issues. The country has lost a great public servant, and we have all lost a great friend with the passing of Ed McGaffigan.

When I first came to the Senate in 1983, I was appointed to the Armed Services Committee, and I have remained on that committee for essentially 20 years. When I first got here, I needed the help, obviously, of someone who knew something about foreign policy and defense policy, and I called Professor Joe Nye at the Harvard's Kennedy School to ask if he could recommend anyone. His immediate response to me was: There is a young man working in the White House Science Office named Ed McGaffigan. I would recommend Ed without any reservation. If you could persuade Ed to work for you in this capacity, you would be extremely well served. As it happened, I was able to persuade Ed to do that in 1983.

He worked with me on defense issues and foreign policy issues and science and technology issues for 13½ years. Then he moved on and was appointed by President Clinton to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. He was appointed to a term on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and then reappointed to a second term by President Clinton and reappointed once again by President Bush.

I will always be grateful to Professor Nye for his immediate and superb recognition of Ed. Ed had many virtues. He was a man of great faith. He was faithful to his God, of course, his family, his job, and his country. He was known for his love of his family, his wife Peggy, and his children, Eddie and Meggy. He saw his job as public service. He made a decision early in his career to pursue public service. He worked in the State Department, he worked in the White House science office, he worked in the Senate, and he worked as a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. In each position, he demonstrated great ability and uncompromising integrity.

Ed made it his business to understand whatever the issue was at hand better than anybody else. He had the intellectual capacity and the determination to do exactly that. He sought expert advice, but he was not one who

would accept any advice at face value. He was trained as a physicist; he was a physicist. He had an extremely keen mind, and he was in the enviable position of being able to be his own expert, having his own expert views on many subjects.

The second advantage I would cite for Ed in his public service was his courage. He employed that courage time and again when he stepped up to be the teller of truth. One recent column described him as a "debunker of hype." There was another story that was written about Ed this week, where he was referred to as a "feisty advocate for nuclear technology." I can see how someone might interpret his statements and actions that way, but, in fact, Ed saw himself not as an advocate for a particular technology—nuclear or any other—but instead as a person who was unafraid to tell the truth even when that went against the popular view, even when it meant dispelling widely shared myths.

Ed had the intellectual ability and the courage to accomplish a tremendous amount. There was no question or surprise when he chose to use that intellectual ability and courage to face the illness that did finally claim his life. He did all of the reading that was doable on the subject of that illness. He asked hard questions. He took in the answers, and he managed his life for the last 8 years in the best way possible.

As sometimes happens with cancer—which is what ultimately prevailed—there are days of remission and there are also days of illness. Recently, he enjoyed a reprieve from the pain and discomfort that was caused by the disease and the treatment. Bob Simon and Sam Fowler of the Energy Committee and myself were fortunate to have lunch with Ed in the Senate diningroom in June. It was a typical meeting with Ed. He was focused on the future, on how to accomplish the important work of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. He was a devoted public servant to the end of his days. He achieved an enormous amount. Much of his ability to achieve in these final months and throughout his career, of course, was due to the superb work of his staff at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. They deserve great credit, as well, for helping him in these final months. Ed must have been one of the few hospice patients in the country who continued to work 4 days a week. As far as I know, he is the only hospice patient to testify before the Senate in July.

Ed made the most of the reprieve he was granted, but this last week his illness came forward and he died on Sunday. He was buried in Arlington, VA, today. The Senate is a poorer place for his passing, and the country has lost a great public servant. We have all lost a very good friend.

IRAQ

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss Iraq, as I have every day this week that we have been here. First, I know we all have the deepest gratitude and respect for the sacrifice of the brave men and women serving our country so valiantly in Iraq. Make no mistake about it, the troops are doing their job. I am concerned, however, that their mission is not worthy of their great sacrifice, especially the President's surge.

The surge, despite earlier reports this week, has failed to meet the objectives set out by the President. And the President can't change that fact by changing the goal. He is now claiming progress in Iraq as evidence that the surge—directed at Baghdad—is working. While the President has claimed progress in Anbar, it was not the surge that brought the momentary calm to this region, because the surge was focused mainly on Baghdad, and the difficult process of political reconciliation. Its objective, as stated by the President himself, was to create breathing room for the central Iraqi Government to make political progress.

Our brave troops have been in Anbar for years and years, doing the first-rate job they always do in what is a very difficult environment. Now, however, some elements of the local population, and some of their leaders, have made common cause with the brave men and women of our military. They have cooperated with our troops out of distaste for the brutal methods of al-Qaida. While this is a welcome and helpful development, it is neither the foundation upon which a successful long-term strategy can be launched, nor is it a result of the surge, which was targeted mainly at Baghdad and the national Iraqi political process.

We have heard about successes in the past. They are temporary. They are not based on any permanent structural change or any permanent change in the views of the Iraqi citizens. The Shiites, the Sunnis, and the Kurds still despise each other. They dislike each other more than they like any central government. We have heard about success in the past in Baghdad, and we have heard about success in Fallujah, and they vanish like the wind because the fundamentals on the ground haven't changed.

Now, at a time when the American people are crying out for a change in course, some are pointing to a temporary situation in one province—Anbar—as a way to continue the present misguided policy. It makes no sense. It makes no sense because the fundamentals in Iraq stay the same. There is no central government that has any viability, and the warlords in Anbar Province have no relationship with the central government whatsoever. The Shiites, the Kurds, and the Sunnis, as I have stated, dislike each other far more than they like or want any central government, and these two

facts doom the administration's policy to failure.

We should not have our brave soldiers fighting a civil war caught between rival political and religious factions. We desperately need a change in course, a change in course that recognizes the political situation on the ground, and I urge that this body move forward to do just that.

CHANGES TO S. CON. RES. 21

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, section 306 of S. Con. Res. 21, the 2008 budget resolution, permits the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to revise the aggregates, allocations, and other appropriate levels for legislation that would make higher education more accessible and more affordable, provided that the legislation does not worsen the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2007 through 2012 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2007 through 2017.

I find that the conference report for H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, satisfies the conditions of the deficit-neutral reserve fund for higher education. Therefore, pursuant to section 306, I am adjusting the aggregates in the 2008 budget resolution, as well as the allocation provided to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

I ask unanimous consent that the following revisions to S. Con. Res. 21 be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008.—S. CON. RES. 21; REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 306 DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

(In billions of dollars)

Section 101:	
(1)(A) Federal Revenues:	
FY 2007	1,900.340
FY 2008	2,022.084
FY 2009	2,121.502
FY 2010	2,176.951
FY 2011	2,357.680
FY 2012	2,494.753
(1)(B) Change in Federal Revenues:	
FY 2007	-4.366
FY 2008	-28.712
FY 2009	14.576
FY 2010	13.230
FY 2011	-36.870
FY 2012	-102.343
(2) New Budget Authority:	
FY 2007	2,371.470
FY 2008	2,503.114
FY 2009	2,524.848
FY 2010	2,579.138
FY 2011	2,697.407
FY 2012	2,734.883
(3) Budget Outlays:	
FY 2007	2,294.862
FY 2008	2,469.527
FY 2009	2,570.800
FY 2010	2,607.889
FY 2011	2,703.174
FY 2012	2,716.580

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008.—S. CON. RES. 21; REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 306 DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

(In millions of dollars)

Current Allocation to Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority	12,922
FY 2007 Outlays	13,144
FY 2008 Budget Authority	10,608
FY 2008 Outlays	10,024
FY 2008–2012 Budget Authority	56,565
FY 2008–2012 Outlays	54,185
Adjustments:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority	-4,890
FY 2007 Outlays	-4,890
FY 2008 Budget Authority	-176
FY 2008 Outlays	-842
FY 2008–2012 Budget Authority	5,754
FY 2008–2012 Outlays	4,888
Revised Allocation to Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority	8,032
FY 2007 Outlays	8,254
FY 2008 Budget Authority	10,432
FY 2008 Outlays	9,182
FY 2008–2012 Budget Authority	62,319
FY 2008–2012 Outlays	59,073

RECONCILIATION PROVISIONS—H.R. 2669

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, as chairman of the Committee on the Budget, pursuant to section 313 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, I submit to the Senate the following list of reconciliation provisions considered to be extraneous under the Byrd rule, to be printed in the RECORD.

PROVISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE REPORT ACCOMPANYING H.R. 2669, THE COLLEGE ACCESS AND COST REDUCTION ACT, WHICH ARE EXTRANEUS PURSUANT TO THE BYRD RULE
None.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD my letter to Senator BYRD regarding my absence for rollcall vote No. 315.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, September 6, 2007.

Hon. ROBERT C. BYRD,
President Pro Tempore, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. President, due to my presence at a critically important Armed Services Committee hearing regarding the Iraq war, I was unavoidably absent during rollcall vote No. 315. This vote concerned Senator Brown's amendment No. 2673 to the Military Construction-Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill. I was questioning committee witnesses at the time the floor vote was called, and I abbreviated my questioning in order to arrive for the vote. However, I arrived on the floor shortly after the vote concluded. Had I been present, I would have supported Senator Brown's amendment, which I cosponsored. That amendment prohibits the Department of Veterans Affairs from outsourcing certain VA jobs to private contractors.

Sincerely,

JIM WEBB,
U.S. Senator.