

SENATE—Thursday, September 30, 1999

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore, Father Paul Lavin, pastor, St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC, will now lead us in prayer.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Father Paul Lavin, offered the following prayer:

In Psalm 24 we hear:

The Lord's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it. For He founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. Who can ascend the mountain of the Lord or who may stand in His holy place? He whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain? He shall receive a blessing from the Lord, a reward from God His savior. Such is the race that seeks for him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

Let us Pray.

All powerful God, You always show mercy toward those who love You and are never far away from those who seek You. Remain with Your sons and daughters who serve in the Senate of the United States and guide their way in accord with Your will. Shelter them with Your protection, and protect also those who guard them; give these servants of Yours the light of Your wisdom, and give Your grace also to their staffs. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MIKE CRAPO, a Senator from the State of Idaho, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, today the Senate will begin at this point 30 minutes of debate on the amendment offered by the Senator from California, Mrs. BOXER, regarding afterschool programs. We had been scheduled to debate the Gregg second-degree amendment. It is my understanding Senator GREGG is now disposed to withdraw the amendment unless there is objection to

that. So we will proceed with 30 minutes of debate on the Boxer amendment, with the first vote occurring at 10 a.m.

On behalf of the leader, I am announcing that we will try to complete action on the bill today. Therefore, votes will occur throughout the day and into the evening.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000—Resumed

Pending:

Reid amendment No. 1807, to require the Secretary of Labor to issue regulations to eliminate or minimize the significant risk of needlestick injury to health care workers.

Boxer amendment No. 1809, to increase funds for the 21st century community learning centers program.

Gregg amendment No. 1810 (to amendment No. 1809), to require that certain appropriated funds be used to carry out Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, when we concluded yesterday afternoon, the ranking member and I talked about a unanimous-consent agreement for all amendments to be filed. We had talked about 12 noon today, and there was concern that since the announcement was made late in the day, Senators would not have an opportunity to understand that since many had gone home. But it is my expectation that when Senator HARKIN arrives, we will confer and try to pick a time when we will ask unanimous consent that all amendments be filed.

AMENDMENT NO. 1810, WITHDRAWN

On behalf of Senator GREGG, I withdraw the Gregg amendment.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1809

Mr. SPECTER. The essential point on the amendment of the Senator from California is to add \$200 million to afterschool programs. I believe afterschool programs are very valuable, and I have supported afterschool programs in the past. In fact, in collaboration with Senator HARKIN, we included \$200 million in addition to the \$200 million now allocated for afterschool programs. This is an enormous increase on a program that just 3 years ago was at \$1 million, then increased to \$40 million, then to \$200 million, and we have doubled it this year to \$400 million. It is an integral part of the school violence prevention initiative.

In crafting this bill, which comes in at \$91.7 billion, Senator HARKIN and I

have made an assessment of priorities among some 300 programs. And while we would like to have more money for afterschool programs—we would like to have more money for many programs—it simply is not possible to do it.

In crafting this bill, which will be passed by the Senate, to get at least 51 votes, there is very considerable concern on my side of the aisle about a bill with \$91.7 billion. Then we have to go to conference. Then we have to find a bill which the President will sign. The metaphor is, it is like running between the raindrops in a hurricane. So it is with reluctance I must oppose the Boxer amendment; it is not realistic to do it.

Some have argued that the \$200 million advocated yesterday by Senator MURRAY, which was defeated, or the \$200 million sought to be added by Senator BOXER would dip into Social Security. I am not going to make that argument because no one really knows that. We are determined to craft a total appropriations package which is within the caps. In order to accomplish that, there has to be advance funding. Of course, the Boxer amendment provides for advance funding as well. But at some point, if there is sufficient advance funding going into the projected \$38 billion in surplus for fiscal year 2000, even on the advance funding line, Social Security will not be intact, and I think there is agreement that we have to protect Social Security and Medicare, that our expenditures even on an advance line cannot go beyond.

I note my distinguished colleague from California is ready to present her case, so I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank the Chair.

The amendment I have at the desk is No. 1809? I just want to make sure that is what the clerk has.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank the Chair.

I am going to make some very brief remarks and then yield 7 minutes to the Senator from Massachusetts, who is such a leader on education. I will begin just by setting the stage for his remarks.

The amendment we have at the desk—and it is cosponsored by many on my side of the aisle—would allow 370,000 children the opportunity to get into afterschool programs. This is a program that works. I understand both sides agree that it works. The difference is that we on this side want to be a little more bold. We want to really say that if education is a priority, and