

No one makes that case better than the former school board member and former teacher herself, Senator MURRAY. I welcome the chance to hear her on this issue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from the State of Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Thank you, Mr. President.

Let me thank the Senator from Massachusetts for his statement. He has been a strong supporter of education. He understands that on this issue of class size reduction, parents, families, community members, police, mayors, school board members have all stood behind us and said this will make a difference for young children's learning.

I remain baffled by the majority leader not allowing us to simply offer the amendment with an up-or-down vote. We are more than willing to have a time agreement, a short time agreement, and move this bill along.

We all know that Ed-Flex has been asked for by 50 Governors. Well, reducing class size has been asked for by thousands of parents. It has been bipartisan—maybe it is not anymore; it certainly was last fall—a bipartisan initiative to reduce class size. I still believe that is true. It is timely, again, as school boards are looking at those budgets. If we can come to an agreement that will allow us to have an up-or-down vote, I am happy to offer my amendment. I will stay tonight; I can be here tomorrow morning.

Let me conclude by saying it is frustrating to be told no and no and no time and time again when we want to offer an amendment. I am beginning to feel like one of those kids in one of those large classes who has been told by the teacher time and again, "You have to wait." When that happens, you get frustrated, you start to think of other things to do. You can become a discipline problem. I don't want to be, but I will tell my colleagues that we want to offer this amendment, we want an up-or-down vote, and as long as we are told we can't move ahead with it, we will think of other things to do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, first, let me comment on the remarks of the Senator from Washington.

First of all, this bill is a very simple bill to help the Governors have flexibility—the States to have flexibility to maximize the utilization of title I funds, in particular. I don't think anybody disagrees with it.

What I have set out as a policy for me, working with the leader, is that this bill ought not to be encumbered by matters which are under the jurisdiction of the committee which should be considered separately and after due hearing and after all of the elements of the legislation are considered. The amendment of the Senator from Washington really shortcuts that.

Now, I agree that is an existing piece of legislation which needs some improvement. However, it does not fall out from the jurisdiction of the committee. On the other hand, with an appropriate amendment, I will endorse it. So I don't understand the concern of my partners on the other side of the aisle.

We have an offer which will be before the Senate, and this side can endorse her amendment with the modification that is in that amendment. What that modification does is say, all right, let's reach a compromise here. The compromise would be, very simply, let the local governments decide whether they want to use the money which was appropriated but not quite available; they should have the local option. If they want to spend it on more teachers, additional teachers, they should have that option. If they want to spend it on IDEA, which I think most of the communities would do, they would have that option.

I don't see why you can say that we are placing ourselves in a position of preventing the amendment from going forward. I don't want to do that.

Let's also take a look at the problems of this committee. This committee has huge jurisdiction. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act spends about \$15 billion, and amendments that have been addressing this bill would bypass the committee's ability to review all of these programs, which we should do. We haven't done so for 5 years, and the education of this country is suffering badly from not being able to maximize the opportunities for our young people.

We have already had several hearings. We will have more hearings on it, and in the orderly process we ought to take those amendments up and vote on them at that time, but not now when we are just starting the legislative session.

We will have an opportunity for the Senate to vote on an excellent amendment to the amendment of the Senator from Washington and give this body an opportunity to express itself. It will be, apparently, filibustered. I don't understand why or how anybody could filibuster an option for the local communities to decide whether they want to use it for new teachers or for special education.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2077. A communication from the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's report on the activities of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization for 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2078. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's report on the Federal government's use of voluntary consensus standards during fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2079. A communication from the Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final List of Fisheries for 1999; Update of Regulations Authorizing Commercial Fisheries Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act" (I.D. 070798F) received on March 1, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2080. A communication from the Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Pacific Offshore Cetacean Take Reduction Plan Regulations; Technical Amendment" (I.D. 042798B) received on March 1, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2081. A communication from the Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Regulations" (I.D. 031997C) received on March 1, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2082. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan Regulations" (I.D. 042597B) received on March 1, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2083. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Central Regulatory Area in the Gulf of Alaska" (I.D. 021999A) received on March 1, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2084. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

“Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Vessels Greater Than 99 Feet LOA Catching Pollock for Processing by the Inshore Component in the Bering Sea” (I.D. 022399B) received on March 1, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2085. A communication from the Chief of the Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Conformance of the Western Rivers Marking System with the United States Aids to Navigation System” (RIN2115-AF14) received on March 1, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2086. A communication from the Chief of the Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Drawbridge Operating Regulation; Bayou Chico, FL” (RIN2115-AE47) received on March 1, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2087. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Oxirane, methyl-, polymer with oxirane, mono [2-(2-butoxyethoxy)ethyl]ether; Exemption from Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL6059-4) received on March 2, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2088. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s FY 2000 Budget Request; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-2089. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Implementation of Torture Convention in Extradition Cases” (Notice 2991) received on February 22, 1999; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2090. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled “El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail Act”; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2091. A communication from the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Administration of the Forest Development Transportation System: Temporary Suspension of Road Construction and Reconstruction in Unroaded Areas” (RIN059-6AB68) received on February 16, 1999; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2092. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Proposed Laboratory Personnel Management Demonstration Project; Department of the Navy, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C.”; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2093. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled “The Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities Enhancement Act”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2094. A communication from the Chairman of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s annual report for 1999; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2095. A communication from the Director of Selective Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Service’s annual report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1998; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2096. A communication from the Rules Administrator of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Classification and Program Review: Team Meetings” (RIN1120-AA64) received on March 2, 1999; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2097. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency’s Clean Air Act “Residual Risk Report”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2098. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Protection of Stratospheric Ozone; Listing of Substitutes for Ozone-Depleting Substances” (RIN2660-AG12) received on March 2, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2099. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Colorado; Greeley Carbon Monoxide Redesignation to Attainment, Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes, and Approval of a Related Revision” (FRL6236-7) received on March 3, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2100. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Definitions of VOCs and Exempt Compounds” (FRL6238-7) received on March 3, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2101. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa” (FRL6308-5) received on March 4, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2102. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revision, Antelope Valley Air Pollution Control District” (FRL6306-8) received on March 4, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. THOMPSON:

S. 557. An original bill to provide guidance for the designation of emergencies as a part

of the budget process; from the Committee on Governmental Affairs; placed on the calendar.

S. 558. An original bill to prevent the shutdown of the Government at the beginning of a fiscal year if a new budget is not yet enacted; from the Committee on Governmental Affairs; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. GRAMM:

S. 559. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 33 East 8th Street in Austin, Texas, as the “J.J. “Jake” Pickle Federal Building”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. REED)):

S. 560. A bill to reform the manner in which firearms are manufactured and distributed by providing an incentive to State and local governments to bring claims for the rising costs of gun violence in their communities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 561. A bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Mrs. Yaffa Eliach in recognition of her outstanding and enduring contributions toward scholarship about the Holocaust, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. JOHN-SON, and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 562. A bill to provide for a comprehensive, coordinated effort to combat methamphetamine abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. ABRAHAM):

S. 563. A bill to repeal a waiver that permitted the issuance of a certificate of documentation with endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel COLUMBUS, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. 564. A bill to reduce class size, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. COVERDELL (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. TORRICELLI, and Mr. LOTT):

S. 565. A bill to provide for the treatment of the actions of certain foreign narcotics traffickers as an unusual and extraordinary threat to the United States for purposes of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 566. A bill to amend the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to exempt agricultural commodities, livestock, and value-added products from unilateral economic sanctions, to prepare for future bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations affecting United States agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. ABRAHAM:

S.J. Res. 13. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect Social Security; read the first time.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated: