

He has been a leader in our battle to bridge the digital divide and bring technology to the classroom. The e-rate amendment that he cosponsored allowed schools in rural areas across America to access the Internet.

He has been a lifelong champion of family farmers in Nebraska and throughout the country. He has fought to strengthen market prices, improve agricultural education, empower producers in USDA decisionmaking, and, of course, he has been one of the best supporters of increasing the use of ethanol.

BOB KERREY has also been at the forefront of a host of important government reform initiatives. He has worked on a national bipartisan commission to reform Medicare. He is chair of a bipartisan commission on entitlement and tax reform. He is cochair of a national commission on restructuring the IRS, a commission which he created back in 1996.

In addition, BOB has a strong record of service to the Democratic Party. As chair of the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee in 1995, 1996, and 1997, he pulled the Democrats through some tough times. If it weren't for his hard work, we might be a lot more of a minority than we are now.

Senator KERREY's heroism in Vietnam was just the beginning. He continued to act bravely and sacrifice greatly for this country throughout his career in government. The New School University is lucky to have someone of his stature and character at its helm. BOB KERREY is a truly unique American, one who my wife Ruth and I have been privileged to call a friend for many, many years. Ruth and I wish BOB the best in his future endeavors, and we hope he will continue to make himself available for further public service. Our country needs it.

GOVERNOR BUSH'S TAX PROPOSAL

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, an article appeared today in the Washington Post, Thursday, October 26, 2000, in which the American Academy of Actuaries, a respected nonpartisan organization of financial and statistical experts, reported Governor Bush's plan to cut taxes and divert Social Security payroll taxes to establish individual accounts would make it all but impossible to eliminate the publicly held national debt.

It is interesting. Ari Fleischer, a Bush spokesman, faulted the study because it relied on growth estimates contained in a recent Congressional Budget Office report that projected long-term budget trends. He said that this assumes growth "at an unusually low level" past 2010.

Wait a minute. The Congressional Budget Office is run by the Republicans, not by the Democrats.

Lastly, this report said "counting his taxes and individual accounts, Bush is very much overspending Gore."

I ask, in this campaign who is really the big spender? Obviously, it is Gov. George Bush of Texas. Don't take my word for it. Take the word of the American Academy of Actuaries for it.

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

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

ENACTMENT OF CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESS, HEALTH, TAX, AND MINIMUM WAGE PROVISIONS—CONFERENCE REPORT—Continued

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I believe we are ready to report the conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A conference report to accompany H.R. 2614, an act to amend the Small Business Investment Act, and other purposes.

NATIONAL ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2000—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I move to proceed to S. 2557 regarding American dependence on foreign oil.

I hope any Members who want to speak on the conference report will do so this evening. I will work with the minority leader to try to set up a time for a vote tomorrow.

In the meantime, I yield the floor for the tax debate. I observe that Senator BOND of Missouri is on the way to talk about the contents of the Tax Relief Act.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on moving to the energy bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader has the floor at this time.

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

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand that we do have Senators who intend to use time tonight on the tax debate or other matters: Senator REID, for 20 minutes; Senator DASCHLE for 10 minutes; and Senator DODD for 30 minutes. I am not asking to lock the time but reserving. They have indicated they would need part of that time.

Senator BOND, the chairman of the Committee on Small Business, is here and wishes to continue the floor discussion on the tax bill.

Mr. REID. Let me say to the leader, we do have some people who wish to speak. As I indicated to the majority leader, the Democratic leader has been trying to find time all day to speak. He is in his office and will come out here in a short time to speak for 20 minutes or so. We have a number of other people to speak on this legislation. It shouldn't take too long.

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator withhold for a second? Senator DASCHLE, as I indicated to the leader, has been waiting to speak all day. Would the Senator yield to the Democratic leader to give a speech?

Mr. BOND. I am happy to do so, so long as I can regain the floor when he concludes so I may discuss the conference report which is before the Senate. I am happy to accommodate the distinguished minority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is the Senator seeking unanimous consent to retain the floor?

Mr. BOND. I ask unanimous consent. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Democratic leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. I appreciate very much the cooperation of the Senator from Missouri.

ENDING THE 106TH CONGRESS

Mr. DASCHLE. I wanted to talk briefly tonight about where we are. We are now 26 days into the new fiscal year. We should have completed our work 26 days ago. We are at a stage that should command we work together to try to resolve what remaining differences there are, finish our work, and do all we can to bring this session to a close.

Unfortunately, that is not what has happened tonight. What has happened tonight is that our Republican colleagues have insisted on a conference report for Commerce-State-Justice which they know will be vetoed. They have insisted on drafting a piece of legislation incorporating \$240 billion in tax cuts, approximately \$81 billion we are told—even though we still haven't had it analyzed and calculated—in changes to the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

They insisted at the last minute, without any consultation, on incorporating one of the most controversial pieces of legislation pending before the Senate at the end of the year, a bill having to do with forcing States to accept a certain position on physician assisted suicide. There hasn't been any vote in the full Senate, but it is in this tax bill. It is a bill that has nothing to