

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

HEALTH AND EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise to continue to address the key pending piece of legislation that has not been enacted this year. It has been passed by both the House and Senate. In the conference committee, we finished our work. But it is sort of hanging in limbo. That is the funding bill for Education, Health and Human Services, other important programs such as the National Institutes of Health, and, of course, the low-income heating energy assistance program which is so vital to many of our low-income and elderly citizens who live in the northeastern part of the United States and in a lot of the other northern parts of America.

That bill right now is in limbo. We passed the appropriations bill in the Senate; the House passed the bill. Then ensued about 4 months of very tough negotiations between the House and the Senate, culminating in a marathon session that took place one weekend before we left, a couple weeks before the election, in which we agreed. When I say "we," I mean Chairman STEVENS of the Appropriations Committee; Senator BYRD, our ranking member on the full Appropriations Committee; Senator SPECTER, who is the chairman of the education appropriations subcommittee; and me. I am the ranking member on the subcommittee. On the House side, we had Chairman YOUNG of Florida, the chairman of the full Appropriations Committee; we had Congressman PORTER, who is chairman of the subcommittee on that side; Congressman OBEY, ranking member on the subcommittee, and also ranking member of the full Appropriations Committee. We all agreed.

It was a Sunday, and we were there until 2 a.m. on Monday morning. We finally agreed. The negotiations were heated. Many times we were hung up on certain things, but in the end we came up with a good compromise.

That was Monday morning. That was right before we left for the election. Less than 12 hours later, a faction within the House Republican leadership, led by Congressman DELAY and Congressman ARMEY, decided to renege on that bipartisan compromise. We were all baffled by this sudden decision. We spent many late hours compromising, negotiating, giving and taking.

I think we came to an honorable, mutually satisfactory agreement. Again,

no one was 100-percent happy with it. For example, I was extremely displeased that an important regulation protecting workers from workplace injuries such as carpal tunnel syndrome was delayed yet again, for the third year in a row, despite the fact that last year's conference report contained explicit language stating it would not be delayed any further. Well, Republicans insisted we try to delay this yet again.

Each year, over 600,000 American workers suffer disabling, work-related, musculoskeletal disorders. This costs employers \$15 billion to \$20 billion a year in compensation. It may cost our economy upwards of \$60 billion annually. I was especially disappointed because this so-called ergonomics provision was a nonpartisan proposal initiated under Labor Secretary Elizabeth Dole, a Republican, in the Bush administration 9 years ago.

Yet while I was displeased with this particular aspect of the bill, I was satisfied that the bill contained important provisions to improve education for our kids, improve health care for women and the elderly, fund needed research at the NIH, and safeguard Social Security and Medicare—provisions that are far too important to be destroyed by last-minute partisan politics.

In this bill, we had the highest increase ever in funding for education, with 35 percent more funding for class size reduction. It meant 12,000 new teachers would be hired across America. That is what was in the bill. There was school modernization funding that would generate about \$9 billion in needed school repairs to some of our older schools; \$250 million to increase accountability to turn around failing schools; a 40-percent increase in grants to States for the education of kids with disabilities and special needs; the largest increase we ever gave for IDEA, from \$4.9 billion to \$6.9 billion; the largest increase ever for Pell grants, to make college more affordable to working families. That is what was in this bill—the largest increase ever for Pell grants; the biggest increase for grants to States for educating kids with disabilities; school modernization, the first time ever, which would have funded about \$9 billion in needed school repairs; 35-percent funding for class size reduction, the most ever. That is just in education.

In child care, again, was a record amount of money, an additional \$817 million that would have covered 220,000 more children in America to have child care; afterschool care, \$546 million in this bill, so that 850,000 children in America could have some form of afterschool care.

Health care. We added money so that 1.5 million more patient visits could take place at our community health centers around America. We put in an additional \$18 million for breast and cervical cancer treatment and screen-

ing, an additional \$1.7 million for NIH research—the highest level we have ever given, the biggest increase ever for funding at the NIH.

I mentioned earlier a record amount for LIHEAP, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, so that the elderly and low income in the northeastern parts of our country can get the heat they need this winter.

That is what is in the bill. It addresses the educational needs of our country, child care, health care, medical research, and, as I said, things such as home heating for the elderly and low income.

Well, each side won some battles; each side lost some. Isn't that what compromise is about? Isn't that what bipartisanship is about, where I don't get my way all the time and you don't get your way all the time? Maybe I will get some of what I want and maybe you will get some of what you want. That is what bipartisanship is about. We hear all this talk about bipartisanship. It looks as if next year the Senate is going to be right down the middle, 50-50, for the first time ever. If there is ever a time that we need bipartisanship, where we have to mentally understand that we Democrats don't get our way all the time and you Republicans don't get your way all the time but we work these things out, it is now. That is what we did on this appropriations bill.

As I said, it took us almost 5 months of tough negotiations, with strong feelings about this. Finally, we shook hands and we all signed our names to it and we walked out of the room. Then, two Republicans on the House side, Mr. DELAY and Mr. ARMEY, turned thumbs down on it after we had done our work to reach a bipartisan agreement.

Well, if we are going to set the stage for working closer together next year, I suggest we start here and now with the appropriations bill for education. We have a bipartisan bill. Republicans and Democrats who worked on it for 5 months know all the line items that are in it. We all agree that some are progressive, some are conservative, and there are moderates—almost the entire spectrum of the political ideology was involved in this bill. Yet we all agree, except Mr. DELAY and Mr. ARMEY on the House side.

Why should two people in a position of power be able to tell the entire Congress and, in fact, the entire country that we are not going to have this bipartisan agreement that we reached, on which we worked so hard? Two people say that we are not going to have it.

Congressman YOUNG, with whom I served in the House, has been a distinguished House Member for a long time. He and I don't agree philosophically on a lot of things, but we worked it out. Along with Congressman OBEY, Senator STEVENS, and Senator BYRD, we worked these things out.

So I hope we can tell the American people on the crucial issues of education, health care, and child care, yes, we got the message from this election. Let's work in a bipartisan way, just as we did on this bill, and let's send this bill down to the President for his signature.

Some are now suggesting, I hear, that we adopt a full year's continuing resolution, that we disband all of the work we did on this bill and just go to a full year's continuing resolution. Not only would that be an abdication of our responsibility and send exactly the wrong message, but it would be exactly the wrong start for the next 2 years of an evenly divided Senate and a closely divided House. As I said, it would throw out one of the best examples of bipartisan cooperation that we were able to muster this year. Even worse, a full year's continuing resolution would be a step backward for the education of our kids and the health care available to all Americans. If we had a continuing resolution, it would wipe out all the gains I spoke of, including class size reduction, Head Start, and breast and cervical cancer treatment and screening.

I have a chart which shows one of the things that would happen if we do not adopt the appropriations bill on education and health.

As I said, we have the largest increase ever for NIH funding. Why did we do that? We did that because this Congress a few years ago voted overwhelmingly that we were going to double the funding in 5 years for the NIH. Republicans voted for it and Democrats voted for it.

Both Senator SPECTER and I took that charge. We have been adding that money to double that. This year we have a \$1.7 billion increase for NIH funding to get it up to double.

That increase means that under the current bill about which I am speaking we will be able to fund 9,500 new research project grants over and above what we have had in the past.

If we have just a continuing resolution, we will be able to fund only 5,000, and 4,500 new research grants will not be funded next year if we don't get this bill to the President and have just a continuing resolution.

What does that mean? It means things such as Alzheimer's disease, child cancer, prostate cancer, breast cancer, childhood diabetes, HIV, Parkinson's disease, cerebral palsy—I have a whole list. I will not read the whole list—all of the things that we are very close to making breakthroughs on—spinal cord injury is another one—and are very close to making tremendous breakthroughs with the new tools that we have—the human genome project is being finished; stem cell research is being done. We are close to making tremendous breakthroughs. Who knows? One of these 4,500 grants that wouldn't

be funded could be the one key that unlocked the door to which we could find interventions and a cure for Parkinson's disease. It could be one of those 4,500. But it won't be funded if we don't pass this bill. That is what is at stake.

These are the things that won't be funded: Research to develop drugs to prevent Alzheimer's disease, clinical trial efforts on childhood cancer, prostate cancer, breast cancer, childhood diabetes, and HIV. They are just a few of the things that would be cut back. A full year's continuing resolution would cut NIH research by 47 percent. Forty-five hundred new research project grants would not be funded.

I wanted to take this time because this is our first day back. We were back once since the election, but this is the first time we have been back to really get some legislative work done.

The Christmas season is about upon us. People will be anxious to get out of here and get home to spend time with their families and constituents. But we can't shortchange the American people.

Are we going to shortchange our kids? Are we going to say to the teachers across America that we are not going to reduce class size? Are we going to say to our property taxpayers around the country that we are not going to help them rebuild their crumbling schools; that they will have to take it out of their property taxes?

Are we going to say to families hard pressed, who need school care for their kids and who may live in a place where they really need some afterschool care, that we are not going to fund that either?

What about a working family that has a few kids and one of them is doing well in school and wants to go on to college but they can't afford it? They need a Pell grant. Yet we are not going to give the additional money for the Pell grants.

What about our school systems that are hard pressed around this Nation because more and more of the burden of educating kids with special needs is falling upon our local property taxpayers and they are finding it more and more difficult to meet their constitutional requirements of equal education for kids with disabilities but they aren't able to fund it because the property taxpayers are overburdened as it is?

We have a 40-percent increase in this bill to help our local schools make sure they can meet their constitutional obligation to educate kids with disabilities. We have a continuing resolution, and there that goes.

I think the election is very clear. People in America want us to operate in a bipartisan fashion. This is the opportunity for us to show them that we mean it.

We have a bipartisan bill passed by the Senate, passed by the House,

worked out in conference committee, and agreed to by Republicans and by Democrats. Are we going to say that two people in the majority party in the House are able to say they don't like it? Is that what bipartisanship is going to be about around here—that we can all work in a bipartisan fashion but when it gets to the higher echelon of leadership in the House, they don't like it and they can operate by themselves? Is that what bipartisanship means? I don't think that is what the American people think bipartisanship means.

I believe the American people believe bipartisanship is exactly what we did on the education bill. We worked hard on it and lost. We negotiated. We sat and we sat and we talked and talked. We left and came back.

We finally worked it out—not to my satisfaction, not to the satisfaction, I am sure, of Senator SPECTER, and not to the satisfaction, I am sure, of any one of us.

We all had different ideas of what should be in it, but we all gave a little bit. In giving a little bit, we were able to get a bipartisan bill.

I say to my friends on the Republican side—I shouldn't say it here; we had agreement in the Senate. I would be preaching to the choir. But I say to my Republican friends on the House side that if you really want to show the American people that we can work in a bipartisan spirit, this is the chance to show it—with the education bill.

What a great Christmas gift this would be to the hard-working families of America, to our kids, and to the teachers. What a great Christmas gift this would be to millions of Americans who are suffering from debilitating illnesses such as Parkinson's, spinal cord injuries, diabetes, AIDS, and cancer. What a great Christmas gift it would be to them to say we are not going to back down and that we are going to fund the National Institutes of Health; we are going to put the money into this basic research to find the cures that we know are there.

I think that is the Christmas present Congress ought to give to the American people.

I am hopeful that before this week is out cooler heads will prevail and that we will take this bipartisan bill on education and health and send it down to the President, who has indicated that he would indeed sign it. That would be the best Christmas present we could give to the American people.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ABRAHAM). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

PARK RINARD MEMORIAL

Mr. HARKIN. I should like to take a few moments today to honor the life of