

consent the Senate proceed to a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

GRADUATING PAGES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the spring 2000 graduating Page class. They have been an integral part of the everyday proceedings of the U.S. Senate and without their hard work and dedication this deliberative body would not be able to complete our work in a timely manner. Throughout the year young men and women come to Washington, D.C. from all parts of the nation to serve a vital role as Pages in the U.S. Senate. During the spring and fall these high school students attend the Page School in the early mornings and continue their day as U.S. Senate Pages often working long days and into the night. I must say, this group of Pages was of the highest caliber and are among the best youth our Nation has to offer. At this time, I would like to commend them for their service and enter their names in the RECORD.

Shannon Coe, Ashley Burnett, Kelly Morgan, Shannon Montague, Emily Schlect, Loki Gale Tobin, Kyle Brown, Misty Lebatard, Clinton Lee Johnson Jr., Chase Dubay, Benton Keatley, Anjel Jefferson, Nicole Tailleart, Rebecca Manning, Jean-Paul Isabelle, Andriea Aden, Seema Mittal, James Dolan, Nathaniel Haefs, Hannah Pierson-Compeau, Jay Oliphant, Allison Conley, Megan Gilbert.

MANDATING DISCLOSURE BY SECTION 527 ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, first, I commend Senators LIEBERMAN, MCCAIN, FEINGOLD, DASCHLE and LEVIN for all of their hard work on the issue of Section 527 organizations. This latest mutation in fundraising is just another example of the failure of our existing campaign finance laws.

Hopefully, the passage of our amendment yesterday, which mandates disclosure by Section 527 organizations, will close yet another legal loophole being exploited by clever campaign fundraisers. This amendment should make unregulated and unlimited contributions to these so-called Section 527 committees much less attractive. Although donors will be able to continue to make as many tax-deductible contributions as they want, they will no longer be able to do so in absolute secrecy.

These Section 527 organizations, named after a section of the tax code, skirt existing campaign finance laws by carefully avoiding the endorsement of any particular candidate. This convoluted reasoning proceeds as follows: if a Section 527 committee does not endorse a particular candidate, then it is

not engaged in political activity; if it is not engaged in political activity, then there is no requirement for it to disclose who has contributed money to the committee; since it is not engaged in political activity, it can run unlimited issue ads without obeying existing campaign finance laws regarding disclosure.

We all know from past experience that it is just a matter of time before enormous amounts of campaign cash are funneled through more and more of these secret organizations. The amendment which passed yesterday, which I was pleased to cosponsor, will force Section 527 organizations to emerge from the shadows. They will be required to disclose their existence to the IRS, file publicly available tax returns, make public reports specifying annual expenditures over \$500, and identify those making contributions of \$200 or more a year to the organization.

Although disclosure is only part of the solution, the passage of this amendment ensures that the public understands who these committees are, who gives them their money, and how they spend that money. I was pleased to give it my support.

ACCESS TO INNOVATION FOR MEDICARE PATIENTS ACT OF 2000

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I think we all recognize that the Medicare Program is outdated. The bill introduced by the Senator from Washington would modernize Medicare's coverage to include new biotechnology innovations. Currently, the Medicare program covers physician-administered therapies that are given in an office by infusion or injection, but not those that are injected by a patient or a caregiver at home. Biotechnology has brought us new innovative biologics that are made with large proteins that are so unlike other drugs that they must be formulated as injectables. Science has allowed us to make many of these new products in the form of simple injections that do not have to be given by a health care professional in a clinical setting.

The bill I have cosponsored today would bring Medicare up to date with these developments by ensuring that new biological therapies are available to Medicare beneficiaries. It just does not make sense to continue Medicare's bias toward treatments that are more expensive and less convenient for patients.

I would like to add one point about the bill's cost. We do not know yet what the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] will determine the estimated cost of this change in Medicare policy will be. I understand the cosponsors of this legislation have requested an estimate from CBO. An analysis by the Lewin Group found that this legislation would not result in increasing the

cost to the Medicare program. This finding is not surprising given that the bill would reduce certain costs, such as physician office visits and other expensive services, which would no longer be needed. I am hopeful that the CBO will reach the same conclusion. While it is important to modernize Medicare, it is equally important that we do so in a way that does not weaken the financial strength of the program.

I commend Senator GORTON for his leadership on this legislation. It represents the kind of constructive reform that is needed in the Medicare program; reform that would advance and modernize Medicare without imposing additional costs to the program.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL VALMORO III

• Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of an outstanding American, Mr. Michael Valmoro of Mahwah, New Jersey. Serving his community as a teacher of English, world literature and the works of William Shakespeare at Teaneck High School for the past thirty-eight years, he is one of the longest serving teachers in the history of the New Jersey school system. That tremendous achievement alone is worthy of praise. However, his commitment to his students by opening their young minds to the world's great literature and the genius of William Shakespeare has made him a respected educator and pillar of the community.

Cicero once professed, "What nobler employment, or more valuable to the state, than that of the man who instructs the rising generation." It is clear that Mr. Valmoro has taken Cicero's wisdom to heart during the course of the last four decades, as he has enlightened and inspired the thousands of students fortunate enough to have passed through his classroom.

Whether he was teaching his students to express themselves through creative writing, introducing them to the tragedy of "Romeo and Juliet" or reveling in the simple joy found in one of Shakespeare's sonnets, Mr. Valmoro approached each of his lessons with the wisdom and perspective of a scholar and the unbridled enthusiasm of an eager student.

In one of the scenes of "King Lear," the titular monarch asks his audience, "Who is it who can tell me who I am?" This question often presents itself to an individual upon the twilight of their career. If the outpouring of accolades, fond reminiscence and affection are any indication, the answer to this probing question for Mr. Valmoro is, an excellent teacher, a trusted mentor, a lover of great literature and an inspiration to his colleagues, students and family.

Throughout his distinguished tenure, Mr. Valmoro has exemplified the ideals which the American people value in their educators. It is with my most sincere congratulations and respect that I recognize him today in the Senate.●

IN RECOGNITION OF GEORGE ABRAHAM THAMPY

● Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of George Abraham Thampy, of Maryland Heights, Missouri. George correctly spelled "démarche" to win the National Spelling Bee held last week in Washington, D.C. The week prior, George placed second in the National Geography Bee, also held in Washington, D.C.

I would like to offer my congratulations to this young scholar who has worked diligently to not only reach, but also win, the National Spelling Bee. George's performance has been exemplary and I'm confident it will serve to promote a heightened interest in academic achievement. George also tied for fourth place in 1998 and finished in a third place tie last year.

I look forward to the continued success of Missouri home school families such as George's, and hope to continue promoting the kind of freedom that encourages parents to take an active role in guiding the course of their children's education. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

A message from the House of Representatives, delivered during the adjournment of the Senate, announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4355(a), the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy: Mr. RODRIGUEZ of Texas.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 291. An act to convey certain real property within the Carlsbad Project in New Mexico to the Carlsbad Irrigation District.

S. 356. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain works, facilities, and titles of the Gila Project, and designated lands within or adjacent to the Gila Project, to the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

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-9179. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 1999 through March 31, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-9180. A communication from the Director for Administration and Management, Office of the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of agreements and transactions relative to acquisition and cross-serving agreements with non-NATO countries for fiscal year 1999; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-9181. A communication from the Commissioner of Social Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the Supplemental Security Income Program; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-9182. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the status of activities that respond to the National Transportation Safety Board's recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation for calendar year 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-9183. A communication from the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on progress on Superfund implementation in fiscal year 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-9184. A communication from the Administration of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Status of the State Small Business Stationary Source Technical and Environmental Compliance Programs" for calendar year 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-9185. A communication from the Chair of the State Energy Advisory Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: A Clean Energy Agenda for the 21st Century"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9186. A communication from the Chair of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for calendar year 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-9187. A communication from the Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the financial audit and financial statement for calendar years 1998 and 1999 for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9188. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act for fiscal year 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-9189. A communication from the Director of the National Legislative Commission of the American Legion, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of consolidated financial statements for calendar years 1998 and 1999; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-9190. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to the Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program for fiscal year 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-9191. A communication from the Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs for U.S. Agency For

International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the accountability report for fiscal year 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-9192. A communication from the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "Auditor's Review of Unauthorized Disbursements From ANC 8B's Checking Account"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-9193. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the inspector General for the period October 1, 1999 through March 31, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-9194. A communication from the Chairman and General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, transmitting jointly, pursuant to law, the report of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 1999 through March 31, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-9195. A communication from the Director of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the inspector General for the period October 1, 1999 through March 31, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-9196. A communication from the Chairman of the National Endowment For the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 1999 through March 31, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. THOMPSON (for himself and Mr. FRIST):

S. 2710. A bill to recognize the rights of grandparents in cases involving international parental kidnapping; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BROWNBAC (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. L. CHAFEE, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GORTON, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HELMS, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBB, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 319. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Senate should participate in and support activities to provide decent homes for the people of the