

SENATE—Friday, June 23, 2000

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Father, so often we begin the work of the Senate by praying for unity. Today we search deeper into our own hearts to discover why we ask for unity and then find it difficult to accept Your gift. Today we humble ourselves and confess our profound need for Your help. Crucial issues separate Senators ideologically. Both sides in debate assume they are right. Sometimes pride fires the flames of the competitive will to win. Other times physical tiredness causes loss of control, and words may be used to demean or shame with blame. In the quiet of this moment we ask You to imbue the Senators with the controlling conviction of their accountability to You for what is said and done. We ask You to give the leaders of both parties the initiative to take the first step to break deadlocks and move toward creative compromises and achieve agreements.

Lord God, we need Your healing. Make us all as willing to receive as You are to give. Without You, we are powerless; with You, nothing is impossible. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LINCOLN CHAFEE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, 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. L. CHAFEE). The Senator from Pennsylvania.

SCHEDULE

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, on behalf of the distinguished majority leader, Senator LOTT, I have been asked to announce that we will proceed with further consideration of the appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. We have an amendment to be presented in a moment or two by the distinguished Senator from Missouri, Mr. BOND. We urge all Senators who have amendments to come to the

floor to offer those amendments. Any rollcall votes will be considered sometime early next week under the schedule announced by the majority leader.

We are trying to move ahead with this bill. There are quite a few Senators who have stated their intention to offer amendments. Staff and I have canvassed a good many of the Members in an effort to have them come to the floor to take up their amendments. That would help in the disposition of this bill. We are going to be in session until at least close to noon today. We do know that in the early stages of bills, there is time for discussion, for debate, and later the time becomes very crowded, time is limited, and Senators may be allotted only a few minutes under time agreements. So now is the time to come to take up the issues.

The majority leader has also asked me to announce that the Senate may turn to the Department of Defense authorization bill on Monday.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

THE DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS, 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 4577, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4577) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McCain amendment No. 3610, to enhance protection of children using the Internet.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill before the Senate today contains a program level of \$104.5 billion, an increase of \$7.9 billion or 8.2 percent over the fiscal year 2000 program level. This program level was achieved by savings in the following areas: The temporary assistance to needy families, supplemental security income, and the State children's health insurance programs. Further, savings were also achieved by advance funding an additional \$2.3 billion of education dollars into fiscal year 2002, while keeping the same overall level of advances as last year. The actual budget authority in the bill is \$97.35 billion,

the full amount of the subcommittee's allocation under section 302(b) of the Budget Act.

Given the subcommittee's allocation there were inadequate resources to sufficiently fund important health, education and training programs. Therefore savings needed to be found in order to expand these high priority discretionary programs. For example, savings were achieved by shifting \$1.9 billion in unspent fiscal year 1998 State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) funds into fiscal year 2003. Currently 38 States and the District of Columbia have not spent their SCHIP funds which are due to expire on September 30, 2000. By reappropriating funds, these 38 States and the District of Columbia will have an opportunity to spend these dollars in future years.

The recommendations made in the bill both keeps faith with the budget agreement and addresses the health, education, employment and training priorities of the Senate.

While consistent with the budget agreement, many tough choices had to be made. Senator HARKIN and I received over 1,800 requests from Members for expanded funding for programs within the subcommittee's jurisdiction. In order to stay within the allocation and balance the priorities established in the budget agreement and expressed in Member requests, we had to take a critical look at all of the programs within the bill. I want to take this opportunity to thank the distinguished Senator from Iowa, Mr. HARKIN, for his hard work and support in bringing this bill through the committee and on to the floor for full consideration by all Senators.

The programs funded within the subcommittee's jurisdiction provide resources to improve the public health and strengthen biomedical research, assure a quality education for America's children, and offer opportunities for individuals seeking to improve job skills. I'd like to mention several important accomplishments of this bill.

Nothing is more important than a person's health and few things are feared more than ill health. Medical research into understanding, preventing, and treating the disorders that afflict men and women in our society is the best means we have for protecting our health and combating disease.

Since January of 2000, the Labor-HHS Subcommittee has held nine hearings on medical research issues.

We have heard testimony from NIH Institute Directors, medical experts from across the United States, patients, family members, and advocates