

SENATE—Wednesday, June 28, 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:

Almighty God, Sovereign of this Nation and Lord of our lives, we celebrate the anniversary of the opening of the Constitutional Convention in 1787, by remembering Benjamin Franklin's call to prayer at a time when the deliberations were deadlocked. He said, "I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: that God governs in the affairs of men. If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? I believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed no better than the builders of Babel. We shall be divided by our partial local interests; our projects will be confounded."

Gracious Lord, we join our voices with the Founding Fathers in confessing our total dependence on You. We believe that You are the Author of the glorious vision that gave birth to our beloved Nation. What You began You will continue to develop to full fruition, and today the women and men of this Senate will grapple with the issues of moving this Nation forward in keeping with Your vision. It is awesome to realize that You use people to accomplish Your goals. Think Your thoughts through the Senators; speak Your truth through their words; enable Your best for America through what You lead them to decide. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WAYNE ALLARD, a Senator from the State of Colorado, 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. ALLARD). The acting majority leader.

SCHEDULE

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, on behalf of the distinguished majority leader, I have been asked to announce that today we will immediately resume consideration of the appropriations bill on Labor, Health and Human Services,

and Education. Under the order, there will be closing remarks on the amendment offered by the distinguished Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON, regarding same-sex schools, with a vote to occur at approximately 9:45 a.m. Following the vote, there will be closing remarks and then a vote on the Daschle amendment regarding fetal alcohol syndrome.

We are urging all Senators who have amendments to come to the floor. It is the intention of the majority leader to conclude action on this bill today. It is my hope that we could have a limit on the number of amendments, perhaps have a unanimous consent agreement limiting the number of amendments, and that we can work through time agreements to proceed to conclude the bill.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2801

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2801) to prohibit funding of the negotiation of the move of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United States until the Secretary of State has required the divestiture of property purchased by the Xinhua News Agency in violation of the Foreign Missions Act.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I object to further proceedings on the bill at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. SPECTER. I yield the floor.

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 resume consideration of H.R. 4577 which the clerk will report.

The bill 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:

Harkin (for Daschle) amendment No. 3658, to fund a coordinated national effort to prevent, detect, and educate the public concerning Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect and to identify effective interventions for children, adolescents, and adults with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect.

Hutchison/Collins amendment No. 3619, to clarify that funds appropriated under this Act to carry out innovative programs under section 6301(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 shall be available for same gender schools.

Mr. SPECTER. 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.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. 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. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Hutchison amendment, which would allow local school districts to use Title VI funds to establish same-gender schools if they so choose. I have opposed a similar amendment in the past because I have been concerned that many of these "separate but equal" programs are sometimes not equal in reality. I am pleased that the Senator from Texas has made modifications to her amendment that deal with these concerns, and ensures that single-gender schools will not result in a system where one gender is educationally disadvantaged.

I believe this amendment is another important step in our drive toward more flexibility and local control in education. I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the Public Education Reinvestment, Reinvention and Responsibility Act—better known as "Three R's"—which would also provide school districts with the flexibility to design programs that best meets their needs. The Hutchison amendment, which allows local officials to make the decision to set up a single-gender school, is consistent with the "Three R's" philosophy. We must continue to move toward a public education system that gives States and local school districts—who are in the best position to know what their educational needs are—the ability to create innovative programs that allow all students to achieve to high standards.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 9:40 a.m. having arrived, there will be 4 minutes of debate prior to the vote on or in relation to the Hutchison amendment No. 3619.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, if there is no one on the other side, which