

**SENATE—Thursday, June 29, 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 God, You are never reluctant to bless us with exactly what we need for each day's challenges and opportunities. Sometimes we are stingy receivers who find it difficult to open our tight-fisted grip on circumstances and receive the blessing that You have prepared. You know our needs before we ask You, but You wait to bless us until we ask for help. We come to You now honestly to confess our needs. Lord, we need Your inspiration for our thinking, Your love for our emotions. Your guidance for our wills, and Your strength for our bodies. We have learned that true peace and lasting serenity results from knowing that You have an abundant supply of resources to help us meet any trying situation, difficult person, or disturbing complexity, and so we say with the psalmist, "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with benefits."—Psalm 68:19. Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Honorable SLADE GORTON, a Senator from the State of Washington, 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.

**RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME**

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

**RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

**SCHEDULE**

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I have been asked to announce that we will resume consideration of H.R. 4762. Under the previous order, there will be closing remarks on the bill with a vote on final passage to occur at approximately 9:40 a.m. and following that vote, a vote on or in relation to the Frist amendment, which is the Frist amendment to the Labor, HHS, and Education appropriations bill, will occur.

I have been asked to announce that it is the leader's intention to finish this bill by midafternoon and then to proceed to the Interior appropriations bill. I note a smile by our distinguished Presiding Officer. He has the Interior bill. But that is what the script says. We will be pushing as hard as we can to accomplish that and get that done. Our distinguished leader was in a persevering, strong mood last night, and I assume he will be this morning as well. We want people who have amendments to come to the floor. We will work out a schedule and work out time agreements so we can meet that demanding schedule.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

**INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 AMENDMENT**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 4762, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4762) to amend the Internal Revenue Code for 1986 to require 527 organizations to disclose their political activities.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 7 minutes for closing remarks, with 5 minutes of that time to be under the control of the Senator from Arizona, Mr. MCCAIN.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I yield 2 minutes of my 5 minutes to the Senator from Wisconsin, Mr. FEINGOLD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, despite the claims in the press by some opponents of this measure, this bill is fair and evenhanded. It affects groups on both sides of the political spectrum. It is not aimed at any particular group or players in the elections. It is aimed at getting rid of secrecy. It is not an attempt to silence anyone. It is an attempt to give the American people information. They are entitled to have this information about the groups who flood the airwaves with negative ads during an election campaign.

I thank all my colleagues who supported the McCain-Feingold-Lieberman amendment on the Department of Defense bill. They can be proud of what they did. With that vote, they have started in motion a process that has brought us to this day, when we will quickly pass and send to the President for his signature a good, fair, bipartisan bill that does the right thing for the American people.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I believe in full disclosure of who is funding polit-

ical campaigns. The public has a right to know who is paying for the political advertisements and direct mail that they see. While I think this bill may not go far enough in requiring disclosure of these groups, it is a first step and that is why I support H.R. 4762.

H.R. 4762 requires disclosure for political organizations which are tax exempt under section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code. 527 organizations which directly advocate the election or defeat of a particular candidate for federal office are subject to federal election campaign law disclosure obligations. However, 527 organizations that do not directly advocate for the election or defeat of a particular candidate are not subject to these federal election campaign laws and are not obligated to disclose the names of their contributors nor how they send the contributions they receive. This bill correctly adds disclosure requirements to these 527 organizations so that the activities performed and identity of contributors to these previously undisclosed will be available for public scrutiny, much like those 527 organizations that have to disclose under the federal election laws.

I am also glad that this bill follows the constitutional requirement that revenue measures originate in the House of Representatives. If the revenue measure did not originate in the House, then any member could subject the bill to a "blue slip," thereby voiding the entire bill, not just the part of the bill that is a revenue measure. I opposed an amendment similar to this bill a few weeks ago when it was offered as an amendment to the Defense Authorization bill because adoption of that amendment would have subjected the Defense Authorization bill to such a "blue slip" challenge. Since we are taking up a House-originated revenue measure, I do not have the concerns which forced me to vote against the previous amendment.

However, I do have some concerns with this bill. First, this bill is a tax measure and tax measures should first be addressed by this committee of jurisdiction, the Finance Committee. This we have not done. In fact, the Finance Committee was scheduled to have a hearing on July 12, 2000 to review this and other similar legislation dealing with disclosure of political activity by tax-exempt and other organizations. This hearing will not happen now and we will not be able to have the Finance Committee review how effective this legislation will be.

My second concern is that this bill may not do enough. By only focusing