

SENATE—Friday, June 30, 2000

The Senate met at 9:31 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:

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on this Senate Chamber, enter the mind and heart of each Senator, and reign as Sovereign over all that is said and done this day. We confess that it is sometimes easier to use pious words to pray about Your presence and power than it is to turn over the control of our lives and our work to You. We are strong willed people, we want things done our way, and often we are better at manipulation than meditation and mediation. Built right into our two party system is the potential for discord and the lack of civility. It is so easy for us to get suited up like mountain climbers and then scramble over molehills. Procedures can become more important than progress and winning more crucial than being willing to work together. Now at the beginning of this day remind the Senators and all of us who serve with them that this is Your Senate, that we are accountable to You, and that we could not breathe our next breath without Your permission. Keep our attention on what needs to be done now rather than on how what is said and done now will impact the November election. In our mind's eye we picture a day in which we put You and our Nation first. We humble ourselves lest we be humiliated by missing the call to greatness. In Your all powerful name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LINCOLN D. 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 majority leader, I have been asked to announce, as manager of the bill, that the Senate will immediately resume consideration of H.R. 4577, the

Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. Under the previous order, there are several votes remaining on amendments to the bill, including the Wellstone amendment regarding drug pricing, the Helms amendment regarding school facilities, the Harkin amendment regarding IDEA, and any amendment that is not cleared within the managers' package, and disposition of the point of order, along with a vote on final passage of the Labor-HHS appropriations bill, and possibly a vote on the adoption of the conference report to accompany the military construction appropriations bill.

The leader has asked that I pass on his message to urge Senators to remain in the Chamber during votes in order to expedite the conclusion of the proceedings.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—H.R. 4680

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, before we proceed to the Wellstone amendment, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4680) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a voluntary program for prescription drug coverage under the Medicare Program, to modernize the Medicare Program, and for other purposes.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I object to further proceedings on that bill at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the rule, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

(Action taken on June 29, 2000 but not printed in that edition of the RECORD.)

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—S. 2808

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2808) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily suspend the Federal fuels tax.

Mr. FRIST. I object to further proceedings on this bill at this time.

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

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:

Helms amendment No. 3697, to prohibit the expenditure of certain appropriated funds for the distribution or provision of, or the provision of a prescription for, postcoital emergency contraception.

Wellstone amendment No. 3698, to provide for a limitation on the use of funds for certain agreements involving the conveyance of licensing of a drug.

Harkin amendment No. 3699, to fully fund the programs of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, one item came up in the course of the consideration of the bill on which I commented I would respond to regarding the increase in this bill over last year's bill.

This year's bill contains a program level of \$104.5 billion for fiscal year 2001. This is a \$7.9 billion increase over fiscal year 2000, which had a program level of \$96.6 billion. When assertions have been made that the bill has grown by 20.4 percent—that is over 20 percent—that is not correct. That calculation is made by comparing the fiscal year 2001 program level of \$104.5 billion with the fiscal year 2000 budget authority level of \$86.5 billion. That is not an accurate comparison.

When you compare the 2001 actual program level to the 2000 program level, the real increase is 8.2 percent.

This question has come up with some frequency. I thought it would be useful to make that explanation.

Mr. President, I think we are now prepared to proceed to the Wellstone amendment.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, before we proceed, could I ask my colleague, is it 2 minutes equally divided or 4 minutes equally divided on each amendment?

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, the Senator from Minnesota is correct. Each side has 1 minute, and then we go to the vote.