

urge Members not to support this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, the amendment is very simple. The amendment before us says you can invest the railroad retirement trust fund, you can invest it in stocks and bonds, but you cannot spend out of it until you have earned something on the investment.

Under the bill before us, you lower the amount of money going into the fund and you raise benefits before one penny is earned, before one investment is made, and in fact you take money out so quickly that you deplete 75 percent of the trust fund before the tax on railroads has to rise from 13.1 percent to over 22 percent in order to maintain absolute minimum solvency.

The amendment before us simply says invest the money, earn income on the money, use the income to lower taxes to fund railroad retirement and to increase benefits, but don't spend the trust fund's money, spend the earnings on the money. It is an eminently reasonable amendment. It is in no way a gutting amendment. If we could have gone to committee with a bill, I believe this would have been the solution. I understand my colleagues are for the bill, but I think this is a prudent way of doing it. Make the investments, do it exactly as the bill would do it, but don't spend the principal, spend the earnings. Don't do the things the bill calls for until you have the money in hand.

I think that is a simple principle. The people understand it. I would appreciate if they would vote for it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 21, nays 78, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 349 Leg.]

YEAS—21

Allard	Fitzgerald	Lugar
Bond	Frist	McCain
Bunning	Gramm	McConnell
Burns	Gregg	Nickles
Campbell	Helms	Smith (NH)
Cochran	Kyl	Thomas
Ensign	Lott	Thompson

NAYS—78

Akaka	Bayh	Bingaman
Allen	Bennett	Boxer
Baucus	Biden	Breaux

Brownback	Feinstein	Murray
Byrd	Graham	Nelson (FL)
Cantwell	Grassley	Nelson (NE)
Carnahan	Hagel	Reed
Carper	Harkin	Reid
Chafee	Hatch	Roberts
Cleland	Hollings	Rockefeller
Clinton	Hutchinson	Santorum
Collins	Inhofe	Sarbanes
Conrad	Inouye	Schumer
Corzine	Jeffords	Sessions
Craig	Johnson	Shelby
Crapo	Kennedy	Smith (OR)
Daschle	Kerry	Snowe
Dayton	Kohl	Specter
DeWine	Landrieu	Stabenow
Dodd	Leahy	Stevens
Domenici	Levin	Thurmond
Dorgan	Lieberman	Torricelli
Durbin	Lincoln	Voinovich
Edwards	Mikulski	Warner
Enzi	Miller	Wellstone
Feingold	Murkowski	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Hutchison

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, I would like to bring attention to one particular segment of the railroad industry—commuter rail. As a Senator from Illinois, I have had the opportunity to become very acquainted with the excellent commuter rail system that serves Chicago and northeastern Illinois. This system—Metra—is the second largest commuter rail system in the country and is a key part of the overall, growing, commuter rail industry. Metra employs between 2,500 and 3,000 workers, nearly all of whom are covered under the Railroad Retirement Board benefit plan.

The extent of commuter rail's growth over recent decades is made clear by looking at the number of workers that it employs. Nationally, roughly one-quarter of all rail employees work for commuter and passenger rail, and it is expected that this number will grow substantially in the future.

For these reasons, I believe commuter rail, because of its growing size, importance, and impact, should be represented on the Railroad Retirement Board of Trustees that is created by this bill. As this bill moves forward in the legislative process, I hope that I will be able to work with the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee and other conferees to ensure that commuter rail is represented on the Board of Trustees.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001. Finally, Congress is going to consider this important bill. I have been working to improve the benefits for our retired railroad workers for many years. Today, we can finally say that promises made are promises kept to our rail workers and their families.

The people who have made their contribution to family and to society by working on our Nation's railroads deserve a decent retirement. I know the job that railroad employees perform is very hard, very important work. Our country has an obligation to help those

who have worked hard, saved, and played by the rules. That is why I am proud to have been a sponsor of Railroad Retirement Improvement legislation for many years and am proud to be a supporter of this bill.

I have been fighting to improve the benefits for railroad workers and their families since I was first elected to Congress. The retirement age for railroad workers and their spouses to qualify for railroad retirement benefits should be lowered. It is difficult for people and families to plan for their retirement in today's world, even with two salaries. That is why strengthening retirement benefits for all Americans has always been one of my highest priorities.

This bill is bipartisan. The House passed their version of this important bill by an overwhelming vote of 384-33. Seventy-four of my colleagues are co-sponsors of the Senate version of the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001. The support for this measure is clear, and the time to act is now.

The Railroad Retirement and Survivor's Improvement Act expands benefits for the widows of rail employees and lowers the minimum retirement age at which employees with 30 years of experience are eligible for full retirement benefits to 60 years old. This legislation also reduces the number of years required to be fully vested for tier II benefits and expands the system's investment authority by creating an independent, non-governmental Railroad Retirement Trust Fund.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in standing up for our railroad retirees and their families and support this very important bill.

Mr. REID. I move to reconsider the vote by which the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. NICKLES. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

NATIONAL DAY OF RECONCILIATION

Mr. REID. Senator BROWNBACK and Senator AKAKA have asked me to make this announcement. They have worked very hard on a piece of legislation which is now law, setting forth today as a National Day of Reconciliation. Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate are encouraged to attend. The meeting is taking place in the Rotunda of the Capitol as we speak. It just started. During assembly, Members of both Houses gather to seek the blessings of Providence for forgiveness, reconciliation, unity, and charity for all of the people of the United States, thereby assisting the Nation to realize its potential as a champion of hope, a vindicator of the

defenseless, and the guardian of freedom.

I hope all who are able will drop what they are doing and make themselves available at the Capitol Rotunda. It will go until 7 p.m. today.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for not to exceed 10 minutes each.

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

THE DEATH OF MRS. ELISABETH THURMOND OF NORTH AUGUSTA, SC

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today in remembrance of Mrs. Elisabeth T. Thurmond, my sister-in-law and a valued member of the community of North Augusta, SC, who passed away Friday, November 16, 2001, at the age of 90.

Elisabeth Thurmond, who was married to my late brother Dr. J. William Thurmond, will be remembered as a caring and generous woman. She was known for volunteering much of her time to serve the people of North Augusta and she made significant contributions to her community in a host of areas. For example, she was a charter member of Fairview Presbyterian Church and served in a variety of roles within the church, including as a trustee and a Sunday school teacher. Furthermore, Mrs. Thurmond worked to help improve the educational system of North Augusta. She was very active in school PTAs and served as the chairwoman of the North Augusta Parent Teacher Association Council that helped to establish the Paul Knox Educational Endowment Fund. In addition, she was a member of countless boards and councils and often held important leadership positions such as a seat on the Board of Directors of the North Augusta Chamber of Commerce. Clearly Elisabeth Thurmond lived a life full of civic accomplishment, and she was honored for her service as the 1981 North Augusta Citizen of the Year.

However, the impact of Mrs. Thurmond's good deeds were seen not only by the people of North Augusta but also across State lines. She was very active with the local chapter of the Girl Scouts of America for many years and, after serving as member of the Re-

gional Board of Directors for the Girl Scouts of America, she was named a member of the national board of directors of the organization.

In conclusion, Mrs. Elisabeth Thurmond was a woman of character and integrity. She lived a life of great accomplishment and made wonderful contributions to the city and people of North Augusta. Our State is a better place because of all her hard work, and the impact she made in the lives of others will be felt long after her passing. She was a true American and a fine South Carolinian, and she will certainly be missed by a wide circle of friends.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred August 24, 2000 in Somerset, KY. Two women, while working as caretakers at a hospital, beat and abused a mentally retarded patient. The assailants, Valerie Hoskins and Crystal Wright, were indicted on criminal charges in connection with the incident.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING IDAHO'S NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a very special group of educators in my home State of Idaho.

Last month, sixty-six teachers received a National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the highest professional credential in the field of teaching. With the addition of these individuals, there are now 272 National Board Certified Teachers in Idaho.

High-quality teachers are the most important assets to any educational system. In order to gain a National Board Certification, these teachers voluntarily, often at great personal expense and sacrifice, submit to a nearly yearlong performance-based assessment. They must demonstrate their mastery in several areas including:

Knowledge of subject matter; ability to effectively teach their subjects to students; and ability to manage and measure student learning. In fact, the State of Idaho recognizes teachers who gain a National Board Certification as "master teachers." I commend these educators for the dedication and sacrifice it takes to successfully complete this program. Not only do they benefit in their teaching techniques, but Idaho's school children benefit through their dedication.

Each one of these teachers has touched countless lives of students. They have been diligent in the trust that has been given to them by parents throughout Idaho. It is appropriate that we honor them today and recognize how hard they have worked to achieve this certification. Sometimes these types of recognitions are only hung on walls, and that rarely provides the public acknowledgement of the achievement. For this reason, I wanted to rise today and share with the U.S. Senate how important this achievement is to the education of young Idahoans.

I ask that the names of the sixty-six Idahoans newly named as National Board Certified Teachers be printed in the RECORD following my statement.

The names follow:

Susan Alt, Boise, ID, Independent School District of Boise City, Early Childhood/Generalist.

Carleen Baldwin, Lapwai, ID, Lapwai, Middle Childhood/Generalist.

Arlene Balls, Soda Springs, ID, Soda Springs District 150, Early Adolescence/Science.

Devon Barker, Nezperce, ID, Nezperce Jt School District No. 302, Middle Childhood/Generalist.

Leslie Rae Bedke, Sugar City, ID, Sugar Salem School District 322, Early Adolescence/English Language Arts.

Marta Bidondo, Boise, ID, Meridian School District No. 2, Early Adolescence/Generalist.

Leah Bug-Townsend, Idaho Falls, ID, Idaho Falls School District 91, Early Adolescence/Social Studies-History.

Khrista Buschhorn, Aberdeen, ID, Aberdeen V, Early and Middle Childhood/English as a New Language.

William Dean, Post Falls, ID, Post Falls School District 273, Adolescence and Young Adulthood/English Language Arts.

Lisa Dreadfulwater, Nezperce, ID, Nezperce 302, Early Childhood/Generalist.

Julie Elliott, Tampa, ID, Nampa 131, Middle Childhood/Generalist.

Anne Marie Elmore, Bellevue, ID, Blaine County, Early Childhood/Generalist.

Joanna Ferris, Inkom, ID, Marsh Valley School District No. 21, Early Childhood/Generalist.

Paula Fisher, Boise, ID, Meridian Joint School District No. 2 Adolescence and Young Adulthood/English Language Arts.

Elaine Forsnes, Rexburg, ID, Madison 321, Adolescence and Young Adulthood/Mathematics.

Victoria Francis, Boise, ID, Independent School District of Boise, Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood/Career and Technical Education.

Janet Greer, Eagle, ID, Meridian School District, Adolescence and Young Adulthood/English Language Arts.