

yielded back to accommodate all Senators who intend to offer their amendments. Senators will be notified as votes are scheduled, and also as a reminder votes will occur during tomorrow's session.

Mr. President, I see Senator HATCH is present to discuss his amendment.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN REFORM ACT OF 2001

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 27, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 27) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide bipartisan campaign reform.

Pending:

Hatch amendment No. 136, to add a provision to require disclosure to shareholders and members regarding use of funds for political activities.

AMENDMENT NO. 136

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of the Hatch amendment No. 136 on which there shall be 30 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I hope we will not take the whole 30 minutes. I understand some of our colleagues need to make some special appointments. I will try to be brief.

I hope all of my colleagues will support this modest, straightforward amendment. We are here this week and next, debating so-called campaign finance reform. I do not understand how anyone can purport to favor any reform of our current system without being willing to offer the most basic right of fairness to the hard-working men and women of this country.

Let's be clear about what we are talking about. We are talking about letting workers who pay dues and fees to labor organizations be informed about what portions of the money they pay to unions are being spent on political activities. In my view, that is basic fairness.

Is there some big secret here? Is there some reason workers should not be told how their money is being spent?

The hypocrisy of the opposition is quite extraordinary. The underlying bill severely limits the ability of political parties to engage in the types of activities that this amendment simply asks unions to inform their members about. How can someone on the one hand argue for a restriction on these activities by parties and then secure a free pass and not even disclose the

same information by others? This is simply remarkable.

Then we hear the argument that this simple disclosure requirement is too burdensome. Give me a break. During these weeks in March and April when hard-working Americans are hovering over their tax forms, how can anyone call this straight-forward disclosure requirement on the unions too onerous? What is going on?

Labor organizations collect dues and fees from American workers. Can anyone tell me they are not already keeping track of this money? If this disclosure amendment is too onerous, that suggests to me there might be an even bigger issue of accountability on how and where this money is being spent.

I trust my colleagues will remember these arguments about "onerous burdens" when we are trying to do regulatory reform.

The issue in this simple amendment is, do America's hard-working men and women have the right to know whether and how the dues and fees they pay are being used for political activities, or don't they? It is that simple. This ought to be the most basic of worker rights and protections.

I hope my colleagues cast their votes in favor of the right of American workers to know how their money is being spent.

Finally, let me emphasize, this amendment does not require the consent of employees. It simply requires disclosure. That is all, pure and simple, disclosure to the hard-working teachers, janitors, electricians, carpenters, and others on what the union leadership is actually spending these workers' hard earned money. It doesn't seem to me to be much of a burden or requirement. It seems to me if we are interested in having true campaign finance reform, this is one of the basic reforms.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Who yields time?

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent I be allowed to proceed for about 3 minutes. If the Chair will advise me when 3 minutes expires.

Mr. McCONNELL. I inquire how much time remains on this side.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Eleven and a half minutes.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate appropriately rejected the original amendment requiring corporations and labor organizations to get prior consent from shareholders and their members in order to use their general treasury funds for political activities. That proposal was appropriately rejected rather overwhelmingly—69-31—in this body for reasons explained in a bipartisan fashion.

The Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. NICKLES, and Senator KENNEDY pointed out this was a cumbersome, almost unworkable proposal that would have lit-

erally placed businesses and unions in a very precarious position. We made the suggestion if the amendment was going to be seriously considered by this body, of which corporations and business would have vehemently opposed, it would have required them to engage and perform certain functions and duties that never before had been required of them.

There is no parity for a democratic organization such as a labor union, where Federal laws require the opening of books, the revealing of financial data information, the free election and secret balloting of officers, and a corporation where none of those union requirements pertain to a corporation management structure.

The same could be said in many ways about this amendment. While this amendment is simpler than the original amendment, the failure or the problems with this one are not much different. This is a tremendously cumbersome mandate that will make it very difficult for some of these businesses and corporations to comply. There are different levels of activities as well.

According to the Federal Election Commission, in the area of contributions since 1992, as a general matter, corporations have outspent labor unions in Federal elections by almost 16-1. So there has been a huge disparity in the amount of money contributed to candidates.

On the other hand, we have labor unions and labor organizations, and their members engage in grassroots political activities, and corporations historically do not.

This amendment is not balanced in its approach to corporations and labor organizations. All of a sudden, this amendment attempts to penalize organizations that are trying to get people to participate in the political life of the country. It says to them, we are going to start demanding this kind of minutia and disclosure of information. As a matter of fact, there is no parity in asking corporations to do the same kind of disclosure when they don't engage in the activities that require the disclosure at issue. This amendment is truly not a balanced request or approach.

Second, there are many other types of organizations that engage in political activities. While the Federal campaign law governs these organizations to a certain extent, this amendment completely excludes them. Membership Organizations, such as the National Rifle Association, the National Right to Life organizations, Sierra Clubs, and other groups are also subject to certain provisions of the FECA. This amendment does not address those organizations nor require them to disclose any detailed information regarding disbursements, contributions or expenditures with respect to their political activities.