

SENATE—Friday, May 4, 2001

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JUDD GREGG, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Father Paul Lavin, of St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Father Paul Lavin, offered the following prayer:

In the book of Tobit we hear:

"Thank God! Give Him the praise and the glory. Before all living, acknowledge the many good things He has done for you, by blessing and extolling His name in song. Before all men, honor and proclaim God's deeds, and do not be slack in praising Him. A king's secret it is prudent to keep, but the works of God are to be declared and made known. Praise them with due honor. Do good, and evil will not find its way to you. Prayer and fasting are good, but better than either is almsgiving accompanied by righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than abundance with wickedness."

Let us pray:

Almighty God, we give You thanks for the many and varied ways You have blessed the men and women who serve in the Senate. We ask now Lord, that they may do Your will in all things and so remain close to You. Lord, Your presence is found where unity and love prevail; grant that they may strive to work together in harmony and peace.

We acknowledge that God is the strength and protector of His people; grant Lord to the Members of the Senate the strength and courage they need to serve the people of the United States.

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JUDD GREGG 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 4, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JUDD GREGG, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

Mr. GREGG thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Vermont.

SCHEDULE

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1, the education bill. The first amendment will be an amendment offered by Senator CRAIG regarding ESEA funding. That amendment will be followed by an amendment by Senator KENNEDY or his designee. Any votes ordered on those amendments will be stacked to occur on Tuesday morning. Further amendments to the education bill may be offered during today's session. The Senate will conclude action on the budget conference report and the Bolton nomination during next week's session of the Senate.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, may I ask the Senator from Idaho if I may speak for 3 minutes before he speaks.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I do not object to that.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. CONRAD. This will come off leader time, Mr. President.

EDUCATION AND THE BUDGET

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, we are here discussing the education bill. Yesterday, the Senate passed a measure to increase funding for education over what is in the baseline by \$150 billion. I supported that. But we have an incredible disconnect going on between

what we are doing on the floor of the Senate and what we are about to do in the budget resolution. The budget resolution that has come out of the conference committee has no new money for education—none, zero. So we are all out here talking about education being the top priority—and, indeed, it is—but we have a budget resolution coming out of the conference committee that gives no priority to education—none, not one thin dime of additional resources to education. It is really an incredible disconnect—the difference between the rhetoric on the floor and the reality of this budget resolution.

The new President of the United States proposed a very modest increase in education over the so-called baseline. He proposed \$13 billion of new money for education over the 10-year period. In the Democratic alternative budget, we proposed \$139 billion of new money for education over the 10-year period. What passed on the floor of the Senate when we considered the budget resolution was an increase of \$308 billion. We passed the Harkin amendment, which reduced the tax cut by \$450 billion and allocated half to education and half to debt reduction. The Harkin amendment added \$225 billion to education over the next 10 years. It went to conference committee to be worked out as to the differences between the House and Senate, and they came back with nothing, zero, no new money.

We passed on the floor of the Senate the Jeffords-Breaux amendment which added \$70 billion to fund IDEA. That went to the conference committee and came back with zero—a big nothing. So there is no new money in this budget for education, and our colleagues ought to be aware of it as we consider the budget next week.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

BETTER EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ACT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1) to extend programs and activities under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Idaho.

AMENDMENT NO. 372 TO AMENDMENT NO. 358

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.