

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), TRAVEL AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION OF SENATORS MIKULSKI AND BROWNBACK FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 6 TO JAN. 9, 2001—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Dr. Lloyd J. Ogilvie: Italy	Lire		863.26						863.26
Rob Wasinger: Italy	Lire		700.04						700.04
Delegation Expenses: ¹ Italy	Lire					13,888.97			13,888.97
Total			7,685.58			13,888.97			21,574.55

¹ Delegation expenses include direct payments and reimbursements to the Department of State and the Department of Defense under authority of sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179, agreed to May 25, 1977.

TRENT LOTT, Majority Leader,
TOM DASCHLE, Democratic Leader,
Mar. 31, 2001.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORZINE). Morning business is closed.

BETTER EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

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

Pending:

Jeffords amendment No. 358 in the nature of a substitute.

Craig amendment No. 372 (to amendment No. 358), to tie funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improved student performance.

Kennedy modified amendment No. 375 (to amendment No. 358), to express the sense of the Senate regarding, and to authorize appropriations for title II, part A, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, with respect to the development of high-qualified teachers.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome the opportunity to be back on this extremely important piece of legislation on which many of us, on both sides of the aisle, have worked on these past weeks. With the leadership of President Bush, we have made every kind of effort, because of the importance of education, to try to find common ground.

We remember very well the debates and discussions we had a little over a year ago when we were at such odds and unable to move ahead with the reauthorization bill. The other side wanted to abolish the Department of Education. How far we have come. Now we are together with a unanimous vote out of our Committee to move this reauthorization bill forward, although there are those who still have some concerns about the legislation they have spoken to in these past days and will speak to as we continue to debate this legislation over the course of this

week and I expect coming into next week as well.

We all understand this legislation is really about our future. It is called the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, but it really is a recognition that we have 20 percent of our children in this country living in poverty and about 50 percent of those are eligible for coverage by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

We are trying to bring some focus and attention to these children in their early years so they will be able to be a part of the great American dream. We recognize if they do not get off to a Head Start or Early Start or Smart Start, and they are not qualified when they go to school, not able to learn, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for them to go through the education system and continue to develop skills in college or afterwards, or in alternative training programs, and be a part of a new economy in the United States and throughout the world.

All of us understand that in many respects, of all the things we are going to do this year, this debate will say more about what kind of country we are going to be in 10 or 15 years than anything else we do. This debate is about the future. This is about our children. This is about the seriousness with which we, at this time in American history, are prepared to invest in those children to give them the opportunity to be a part of our society.

We cannot knock down all the walls of unfairness in our society, but one thing we know for sure: If a child does not start off with the ability to learn and is not challenged in those early years of education, it is difficult to believe they will be equipped to play a meaningful role in our society.

In many respects this is a defining issue. It is a defining value of our country. Do we really believe in equality for our people? All Americans understand the very special role of public education in our society and what a difference it has made to our greatness as a nation. We, in each generation, have to find ways to make sure that playing field is going to be fair and equal and that those children who will be coming

up all across this Nation, and their families, can have confidence in our public school system. That ought to be generally applicable for children from homes of every income, but we all understand children who come from economically challenged situations are facing additional problems.

We have tried to work together on these challenges. We have legislation that reflects the best judgment of those on the other side of the aisle as well as this side of the aisle. We are prepared to see this legislation move forward. As we go through this week, we will consider changes on the legislation, but we are prepared to see this legislation move forward. It has important provisions on accountability. It has accountability for schools, it has accountability for parents, it has accountability for children. It provides some resources to make those services available.

But if there is one overwhelming flaw in this legislation—and it is an overwhelming flaw—it is that after all is said and done about the importance of this legislation, we are failing to give the life to the legislation which it is capable of providing to so many of the children because we are not providing the services contemplated in this legislation to all the children who need it. We will not be providing the services to the children, about which those who talk about this legislation too frequently and glibly talk.

We have to provide support for needy children. We have to do it by providing resources. You cannot have education on the cheap. You cannot have an education budget that is a tin cup budget. We have to invest in our children. That is what this debate is about, investing in our children.

It is important for the country, as we are debating these issues, to understand exactly what we have done and what we have not done. The good news is that the Senate, in a bipartisan way last Friday, with the strong bipartisan leadership from Senators HARKIN and HAGEL, agreed to ensure that the Federal Government is going to meet its responsibilities to local communities and, most important, to disabled children in our communities. What a help