an amount equal to $150,000,000 is rescinded through proportional reductions to the portions of such accounts that contain such funds.

On page 36, line 9, strike “$300,000,000” and insert “$450,000,000.”

AMENDMENT NO. 875

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be set aside, and I send an amendment to the desk on behalf of Senator JOHNSON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for Mr. JOHNSON, proposes an amendment numbered 875.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make certain interest rate changes permanent)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 1. EXTENSION OF INTEREST RATE PROVISIONS.

(a) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Paragraph (6) of section 455(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1077e(b)), as redesignated by section 8301(c)(1) of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (Public Law 105–178; 112 Stat. 498) is redesignated as paragraph (7) of that section.

(b) EXTENSION.—

(1) AMENDMENTS.—Sections 427A(k), 238C(c)(1), 438(b)(2)(I), and 455(b)(6) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1077a(k), 1078–3(c)(1), 1087–428C(c)(1), 438(b)(2)(I), and 455(b)(6) of such Act) are each amended by striking “and inserted after paragraph (7) of that section.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 427A(k) of such Act is amended by striking the subsection heading and inserting the following: “INTEREST RATES FOR NEW LOANS ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 1998.—”;

(B) Section 438(b)(2)(I) of such Act is amended—

(i) by striking the subparagraph heading and inserting the following: “LOANS DISBURSED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2000.—”;

(ii) in clause (i), by striking “2000,” and inserting “2000”;

(C) Section 455(b)(6) of such Act is amended—

(i) by striking the paragraph heading and inserting the following: “INTEREST RATE PROVISION FOR NEW LOANS ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 1998.—”;

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “1999,” and inserting “1999”;

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this amendment for Senator JOHNSON preserves a bipartisan compromise achieved in the 1998 Higher Education Act that reduced and stabilized higher education loan interest rates. The amendment that has been offered amends the Higher Education Act to continue the current student loan interest rate formulas, preserving the successful system that helps put millions of students through school every year.

The budget resolution includes a Technical Reserve Fund that makes it possible to fix the problem in 2001 before a crisis develops in 2003 when the current formula for calculating interest rates is due to expire. But the reserve fund in the resolution will expire early next year. Therefore, action is needed so that Congress and the financial aid community can turn to improving financial aid programs all over this country.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. HELMS. I ask it be in order for me to deliver my remarks seated at my desk.

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

RES IPSA LOQUITUR

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the July edition of the American Legion magazine features a remarkable statement of obvious truth by a much maligned American who deserves far better than the petty sniping he endures at the hands of cunning politicians and the media, neither of whom would acknowledge the truth if they fell over it in the middle of the street.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas pulled no punches in this article. His piece in the American Legion magazine was headed, appropriately, “Courage v. Civility.” Mr. Justice Thomas knows a good bit about both. He is, himself, a civil gentleman who possesses great courage.

The subhead on his piece pinpoints a great deal about how a good many American freedoms are being lost. One of the things he says is, those who censor themselves put fear ahead of freedom. I will quote briefly from two or three statements made by the distinguished Justice of the Supreme Court. He said:

I do not believe that one should fight over things that don’t really matter. But what about things that do matter? It is not comforting to think that the natural tendency inside us is to settle for the bottom, or even the middle of the stream.

This tendency, in large part, results from an overemphasis on civility. None of us should be uncivil in our manner as we debate issues of consequence. No matter how difficult it is, good manners should be routine. None of us should be uncivil in our manner as we debate issues of consequence. No matter how difficult it is, good manners should be routine. None of us should be uncivil in our manner as we debate issues of consequence. No matter how difficult it is, good manners should be routine.

To qualify on the morrow?

Can I assume the atmosphere is so?
Orthodoxy was enforced. To intimidation. Debate was not permitted. Doubt about popular policies were subjected on very difficult issues, such as race, there is no. Of public dialogue in this country, the an- solve the same problems, to have a point of it not be useful for those who felt strongly about what was happening in our country, to face the broader, national sphere of citizen- ship. Duty, honor, country! There was than our comfort or discomfort—if not our one time we all accepted as more important than all of us. There are those things that at tense? If our ideas are trivial, why the head- why are their reactions so in- but one time we all accepted as more important than all of us. There are those things that at tense? If our ideas are trivial, why the head- why are their reactions so in-
members of Parliament, condemning the violation of the law and demanding that the government ensure that no such thing take place.

According to his biographer, Peshëv's words moved all those "who until that moment had not imagined what could happen but who, in the end, would not accept what they had discovered." He had broken through the wall of self-deception and forced his colleagues to face the truth.

There is no monument to this brave man. Quite to the contrary, the ministers were embarrassed and made him pay the price of their wickedness. He was removed from the position of vice president, publicly chastised for breaking political taboos.

But he had won nonetheless: The king henceforth found ways to stroll the Nazis; the leader of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church publicly defended the country's Jews; and even the most committed communist of the Bulgarian government dared not advocate active cooperation with the Third Reich.

After the war, when the communists took over Bulgaria, they rewrote the wartime history of the Communist Party credit for saving the Jews. Peshëv was sent to the Gulag, and his story was only rediscovered after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Pope John Paul II has traveled the entire world on a mission to stand up for the rights of all sorts, speaking to millions of people, bringing them a single, simple message: "Be not afraid."

He preached this message to people living under communism in Poland, Czechoslovakia, in Nicaragua and in China: "Be not afraid." He preached it to Africans facing death from marauding tribes and murder.

"Be not afraid." And he preached it to us, warning us how easy it is to be trapped in a "culture of death" even in our comfortable and luxurious country: "Be not afraid."

Those three little words hold the power to transform individuals and change the world. They can supply the quiet resolve and unvoiced courage necessary to endure the inevitable intimidation.

Today we are called upon to risk our lives against some monstrous tyranny. America is not a barbarous country. Our people are not oppressed, and we face no pressing international threat to our way of life, such as the Soviet Union once posed.

Though the war in which we are engaged is cultural, not civil, it tests whether this "nation: conceived in liberty . . . can long endure." President Lincoln's words do endure. "It is . . . for us [the living] to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us . . . that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to the cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion . . . that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain . . . that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom . . . and that government of the people . . . by the people . . . for the people . . . shall not perish from the earth.

The founders warned us that freedom requires constant vigilance and repeated action. It is said that, when asked what sort of government the founders had created, Benjamin Franklin replied that they had given us "a republic, if you can keep it." Today, as in the past, we need a brave civic virtue, not a timid civility, to keep our republic. Be not afraid.