



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 143

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1997

No. 113

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 3, 1997, at 12 noon.

Senate

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1997

The Senate met at 11 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, Creator of heaven and Earth, and Lord of our lives, our hearts are profoundly moved by the recent and acute reminder of the shortness of time and the length of eternity. We have been stunned by the untimely and tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales. We join with all Americans in expressing profound sympathy to the British people, and the royal family, and poignant empathy for her sons, Prince William and Prince Harry. Comfort and strengthen them in their grief. We thank you for the all too brief life of Princess Diana, for her humanitarian efforts to care for crucial causes and human suffering.

And so Lord, we begin the next phase of the work of this Senate with a sense of our own mortality and the urgency of living life to Your glory each day. Help us to come to know You and love You so that we may serve You to the fullest and do those things which will have a lasting impact on our Nation and the world. We pray with the psalmist, "So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart with wisdom"—Psalm 90:12. Through our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished majority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President, and welcome back. I am glad that the

Senate is back in session, and I am pleased to see you back in the chair, as is always the case.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today, the Senate will be returning from the August recess and will begin immediate consideration of S. 1061, the Labor-HHS appropriations bill. The chairman of the subcommittee, Senator SPECTER, is here and is ready to go with the opening debate. As announced prior to the recess, there will be no rollcall votes during today's session. Members will be offering amendments, hopefully, to the bill. Today, however, any votes ordered on those amendments will occur during Wednesday's session.

Also under the order, at 2:15 p.m. today, the Senate will resume consideration of the Agriculture appropriations bill to allow Senator HARKIN to offer an amendment regarding the FDA. A rollcall vote will occur on or in relation to Senator HARKIN's amendment at approximately 9:50 on Wednesday morning, tomorrow morning.

I remind my colleagues, in addition to the Labor-HHS appropriations bill this week the Senate needs to consider and complete action on the Interior appropriations bill as well as the Food and Drug Administration reform bill. If there is difficulty continuing with the FDA reform, it would be my intent to file a cloture motion tomorrow, which would then ripen on Friday morning, and unless some agreement can be worked out we would have to have that vote on Friday morning.

Therefore, after today's session, votes will be occurring each day. The chairman just indicated to me he

would hope to finish the Labor-HHS bill tomorrow night, but we will stay on the bill and get it completed except for the one vote at 9:50 on Wednesday, and of course, if we have to go to FDA reform—we can complete the bill, although I hope it can be completed by the time we get to FDA.

I urge Senators that are back in town that have amendments to the Labor-HHS appropriations bill to please come to the floor, offer those amendments today, so that you can have them debated now and not get under a time pressure late tomorrow afternoon or tomorrow night or whenever we get to the close of the debate. I think you get a lot better consideration of amendments if you come and offer them early rather than later.

I want to thank all Senators for their past and hopefully continued cooperation during the remainder of the first session of the 105th Congress. As all Members are aware, as we approach adjournment at the end of this legislative session it will be very busy and will necessitate everyone working with the leaders as we try to complete the remaining schedules. We have not had an opportunity to meet with the leadership and to talk with the leadership on the Democratic side of the aisle about exactly when our target adjournment will be, but during the remainder of the week we will be doing so. Later on this week, to early next week, we will give Senators some idea of our hoped for adjournment.

I do want to say again how much I appreciate the cooperation that we have had this year. We did complete the Balanced Budget Act and the tax

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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relief package. We also have already passed 10 of our 13 appropriations bills, with only 3 remaining, this bill, the Labor-HHS appropriations bill, Interior, and the District of Columbia. We would like to finish, in fact, we plan to finish, all three of those bills by the end of next week. Then we will begin to take up conference reports and other bills that are necessary before we end the session for this year. It did take cooperation from all Senators and it took cooperation of the leadership on both sides of the aisle. I hope we can continue that and do the people's business in a way that produces results that will help the quality of life of all Americans.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I see Senator HARKIN is here. Therefore, the managers of the bill are now ready. I yield the floor.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 1998

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALLARD). The Senate will now proceed to the consideration of S. 1061, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1061) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, we are prepared now to proceed with consideration of the legislation on appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.

I have just conferred with my distinguished colleague, Senator HARKIN, the ranking Democrat, after having conferred with the majority leader, and it is our plan to complete action on this bill by tomorrow evening, Wednesday evening. That is not to say that the plan will conclusively be fulfilled as of that time, but it is our plan to proceed in that manner.

It would be our hope that we would have a firm idea of all the amendments which would be offered by the end of business today or if not, no later than noon tomorrow, since we are scheduled to have a vote tomorrow morning at 9:30, and as is the custom, Senators will be arriving today. Some are obviously present now, but as our practice has demonstrated in the past, when the rollcall vote is taken, Senators will be present.

We have had some substantial period of time—obviously, slightly more than a month—to prepare for this bill, because the majority leader announced at the conclusion of our session on July 31–August 1, that this would be the first order of business taken up.

I recall the comment of then majority leader Howard Baker on some legis-

lation back in 1982, when we had a tax bill on the floor of the Senate and the question was whether we were going to proceed all night, which Senator Baker was wont to do, or whether we would go into the next morning. I recall Senator Baker said that amendments, like mushrooms, grew overnight, and it was his determination to proceed that evening. I remember there were about 70 amendments pending. Senator Dole was the manager of the bill. It was a tax bill. We proceeded all night and finished action about 6:30 in the morning.

Well, there has been more time than overnight for these amendments, like mushrooms, to grow, but we have a bill here which is very important.

There is a lot of business in the Senate, and speaking from a personal note, we will be moving ahead with hearings on the Governmental Affairs Committee on campaign finance reform, and I serve on that committee. I hope to be finished with this bill by tomorrow night, whatever time it takes to proceed with the other work of the Governmental Affairs Committee.

Mr. HARKIN. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. SPECTER. My colleague asks me to yield for unanimous consent. I am willing to do that.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank the chairman.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ellen Murray, Peter Reinecke, and Bev Schroeder be permitted privileges of the floor for the duration of the debate.

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

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, moving now to consideration of the pending bill, the pending committee report, we have legislation before the Senate for the three departments, the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Education for fiscal year 1998, which totals \$79.7 billion in discretionary budget authority. That is a large sum of money. Mandatory spending under this totals \$189.3 billion, which is a decrease of \$15.2 billion from the fiscal year 1997 levels.

We have gone through the budget with great care. We have been fortunate enough to have outstanding staffs, both on the Republican side of the aisle and the Democratic side of the aisle, and we have come forward with these proposals here today. It is my view, Mr. President, that when we have a total Federal budget of \$1.7 trillion, that should provide for the needs of the American people through the Federal Governmental operations, if we assess our priorities in a proper way. We have just seen landmark legislation with the balanced budget legislation, and the tax reduction legislation passed by the Congress before we adjourned on August 1, and signed by the President into law on August 5. It is very important that we do reach that balanced budget. We should not, as a nation, spend beyond our means. I believe it is possible to achieve that goal if we work with a

scalpel and not a meat ax and take care of the important needs for all of America.

We deal here with the subjects of health and education and there are no priorities higher than those two items. The people of America, the people of the United States, should be healthy and there should be educational opportunities so people should have an opportunity to climb the ladder in America.

When I talk of education, I talk from a very keen sense personally of education as an opportunity which I have seen. Both of my parents were immigrants. My father literally walked across Europe from Russia, barely a ruble in his pocket, at the age of 18 in 1911 to make a new life for himself and the family which he hoped to have and did have. My mother, coming with her parents to the United States from a small town on the Russian-Polish border at the age of 5, education was heavily emphasized in the Spector household because our parents had so little of it. My brother, my two sisters, and I have been able to share in the American dream because of that educational opportunity.

As Senator HARKIN and I and our staffs have crafted this legislation, we have done our utmost to provide for that educational opportunity. We have provided for increases in the maximum Pell grant to \$3,000 per year. We have provided for guaranteed student loans. It would be preferable if we could provide scholarships for all young people, and older people who want additional education, but that is not possible in a practical sense, so we have a revolving sum where at least the education can be obtained, even if there are obligations that would have to be paid at a later time.

We have come to this budget with very deep concerns over the issue of health. Regrettably, when the budget resolution was presented to us, there was a cut of some \$100 million on discretionary health spending which required a considerable reallocation of priorities, which Senator HARKIN and I and our subcommittee and then the full committee and our staffs have undertaken. That was especially problematic when it came to the issue of the National Institutes of Health where it was our desire to continue to increase the funding on medical research which has been so marvelous for America and our advances benefiting the entire world.

Early in the 105th session, we passed a sense-of-the-Senate resolution, or a sense-of-the-Senate resolution was introduced and, I believe, passed—we will check the RECORD on that to be sure—to double NIH funding over 5 years. If it wasn't passed, the sense-of-the-Senate resolutions pass pretty easily around here because they talk about our druthers as opposed to our dollars. Then, when we took up the budget resolution, and a sense-of-the-Senate resolution passed to increase NIH funding