

of enjoying the full benefits of American citizenship and an uneducated people cannot and will not remain free. A core stanchion of American liberty envisions a citizen who can think well and participate. When we deny them those opportunities, as the Senator from West Virginia indicated we have been doing in growing numbers, we are condemning these people to something less than full American citizenship. The first thing they are denied is economic liberty. And when they are denied economic liberty, which is the second stanchion of American freedom, they are pushed to the periphery of society and before long they are pushed into those components of society that are a risk to the safety of persons and property, another component of American liberty.

So at the center of maintaining our democracy is the duty for each generation to make sure that all of its youth are capable of participating in American citizenship.

It has been alleged that public education is being abandoned here. I would like to point out that of the economic underpinnings of this bill, over 90 percent of it supports public education, whether it is school construction, whether it is assistance through an education savings account to come to students that attend public schools, whether it is support of all of our public institutions in State prepaid tuition policy, whether it is aiding employers in continuing education for their employees. A very small component, albeit a meaningful component, of the funding of this bill deals with helping families whose children are in private schools. But it is simply wrong to characterize this as abandoning public education. Far from it. It is one of the most significant new energies behind public education we have seen in a long time here.

Just to reiterate—we talked about these children—there are about 53 million children in our elementary and secondary schools. The Joint Tax Committee has repeatedly said that 14 million American families will be beneficiaries of the savings account. That means nearly half of the entire population in elementary and secondary schools will receive some benefit. We also know that because of the work to help prepaid State tuition, a million university students will be helped. And we know 250,000 graduate students will benefit from these programs that we are talking about here today, that 1 million American employees will benefit from helping employers assist them in continuing education, and that at least 500 new schools in high-population areas and rural areas will be helped here.

This is a very large piece of legislation affecting literally millions of Americans across the country on the basic belief that an educated mind is an absolute essential requirement for full citizenship in this American democracy.

Mr. President, I know we have had our differences. I think this is the beginning of a long debate. It could be upwards of a decade. I am pleased that the minority leader has agreed that the status quo is unacceptable. If we have at least achieved that, it has been a major breakthrough.

In closing, I thank all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for an incredible amount of patience. The hour is near.

On behalf of the leader, for the information of all Senators, these next two votes will be the last votes of the evening. The Senate will convene tomorrow at 10 a.m. and debate the State Department reorganization conference report under the parameters of the consent agreement of March 31. However, no votes will occur during Friday's session of the Senate.

On Monday, the Senate will debate the NATO treaty beginning at 12 noon. It is the leader's hope that we will have vigorous debate and, hopefully, even have a few amendments offered on Monday.

I announce to my colleagues that the next vote will occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 27.

Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on final passage of the education bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass? The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALLARD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber who desire to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 102 Leg.]

YEAS—56

Abraham	Faircloth	Mack
Allard	Frist	McConnell
Ashcroft	Gorton	Murkowski
Bennett	Graham	Nickles
Bond	Gramm	Roberts
Breaux	Grams	Roth
Brownback	Grassley	Santorum
Burns	Gregg	Sessions
Byrd	Hagel	Shelby
Campbell	Hatch	Smith (NH)
Coats	Helms	Smith (OR)
Cochran	Hutchinson	Snowe
Collins	Hutchison	Stevens
Coverdell	Inhofe	Thomas
Craig	Kempthorne	Thompson
D'Amato	Kyl	Thurmond
DeWine	Lieberman	Torricelli
Domenici	Lott	Warner
Enzi	Lugar	

NAYS—43

Akaka	Bumpers	Dorgan
Baucus	Chafee	Durbin
Biden	Cleland	Feingold
Bingaman	Conrad	Feinstein
Boxer	Daschle	Ford
Bryan	Dodd	Glenn

Harkin	Landrieu	Reid
Hollings	Lautenberg	Robb
Inouye	Leahy	Rockefeller
Jeffords	Levin	Sarbanes
Johnson	Mikulski	Specter
Kennedy	Moseley-Braun	Wellstone
Kerrey	Moynihan	Wyden
Kerry	Murray	
Kohl	Reed	

NOT VOTING—1

McCain

The bill (H.R. 2646), as amended, was passed.

Mr. COVERDELL. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. STEVENS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE HISTORIC NORTHERN IRELAND PEACE AGREEMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 90.

The Senate continued with the consideration of the concurrent resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the concurrent resolution. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 103 Leg.]

YEAS—97

Abraham	Feinstein	Lugar
Akaka	Ford	Mack
Allard	Frist	McConnell
Ashcroft	Glenn	Mikulski
Baucus	Gorton	Moseley-Braun
Biden	Graham	Moynihan
Bingaman	Gramm	Murkowski
Bond	Grams	Murray
Boxer	Grassley	Nickles
Breaux	Gregg	Reed
Bryan	Hagel	Reid
Bumpers	Harkin	Robb
Burns	Hatch	Roberts
Byrd	Helms	Rockefeller
Campbell	Hollings	Roth
Chafee	Hutchinson	Santorum
Cleland	Hutchison	Sarbanes
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Inouye	Shelby
Collins	Jeffords	Smith (NH)
Conrad	Johnson	Smith (OR)
Coverdell	Kempthorne	Snowe
Craig	Kennedy	Specter
D'Amato	Kerrey	Stevens
Daschle	Kerry	Thomas
DeWine	Kohl	Thompson
Dodd	Kyl	Thurmond
Domenici	Landrieu	Torricelli
Dorgan	Lautenberg	Warner
Durbin	Leahy	Wellstone
Enzi	Levin	Wyden
Faircloth	Lieberman	
Feingold	Lott	

NOT VOTING—3

Bennett Brownback McCain

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 90) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 90

Whereas the people of Ireland have experienced civil conflict throughout their history with the latest phase, known as The Troubles, ongoing for the last thirty years;

Whereas this tragic history has cost the lives of thousands of men, women, and children, and has left a deep and profound legacy of suffering;

Whereas the governments of the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom have endeavored for many years to facilitate a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Northern Ireland; and such efforts, including the 1985 Anglo-Irish Agreement, the 1993 Joint Declaration, and the 1995 New Framework for Agreement, were important milestones in guiding the parties toward a political agreement;

Whereas the announced cessation of armed hostilities in 1994 by the Irish Republican Army and the Combined Loyalist Military Command created the opportunity for all-inclusive political discussions to occur;

Whereas representatives from Northern Ireland's political parties, pledging to adhere to the principles of non-violence, commenced all-party talks in June 1996, and those talks greatly intensified in the Spring of 1998 under the chairmanship of former United States Senator George Mitchell;

Whereas the active participation of British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern was indispensable to the success of negotiations;

Whereas the support and encouragement for the Northern Ireland peace process by President Clinton, on behalf of the United States, was also an important factor in the success of the negotiations;

Whereas on April 10, 1998, the political parties, together with the British and Irish Governments successfully concluded the Northern Ireland Peace Agreement;

Whereas people throughout the island will have an opportunity to approve or reject the final agreement during the May 22 referendums;

Whereas the British and Irish Governments have committed to making the necessary constitutional and other legal changes necessary to bring the agreement into effect after the referendum approval processes have been concluded: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) All of the participants in the negotiation deserve congratulations for their willingness to make honorable compromises in order to reach an agreement that promises to end the tragic cycle of violence that has dominated Northern Ireland for decades;

(2) Prime Minister Tony Blair and Taoiseach Bertie Ahern deserve particular credit for their leadership and constant encouragement in support of the peace process;

(3) The American people can be especially proud of the contributions made by the United States in the quest for peace, including President Clinton's vision and determination to achieve peace in Northern Ireland and his personal commitment to remain an active supporter throughout the process;

(4) All friends of Ireland owe a lasting debt of gratitude to Senator George Mitchell for his dedication, courage, leadership, and wisdom in guiding the peace talks to a successful conclusion.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business.

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

COMMEMORATING THE U.S. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, today is a holy day, Yom Hashoah. It is a day set aside every year to remember the victims of the Holocaust.

I had the privilege of starting this Yom Hashoah morning with an extraordinary group of people, the Founders of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Founders are men and women from across America who have given at least \$1 million to the Holocaust Museum.

This week, as we mark the fifth anniversary of the opening of the museum, it seems an especially appropriate time to recognize the incredible gift the Founders, and all the museum's supporters, have given our nation.

We are indebted to them all—particularly to Miles Lerman, chairman of the museum council, and Ruth Mandel, the council's vice chair, and to my dear friend Abe Pollin, the chairman of this year's Founders Reunion.

One of the sages of the Torah told us more than 200 years ago that God could have created plants that would grow loaves of bread. Instead, he created wheat for us to grow and mill and transform into bread. Why? Because He wanted us to be able to take part in the miracle of creation.

That is what the Holocaust Museum Founders have done. They used stone and steel and sacred artifacts, rather than wheat. But they have unquestionably experienced the miracle of creation.

Simon Dubrow, the great Jewish historian, was one of the 6 million Jews murdered in the Holocaust. He was killed in the Latvian ghetto of Riga by a Gestapo officer who had once been his student. His dying words were "Schreibt und farschreibt." "Write and record." He believed to the end that truth and memory ultimately would triumph over the evil of the Holocaust.

Through the leadership and generosity of the Holocaust Museum Founders, his prediction has come true. Many in Congress remain in awe of the fact that the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum has raised \$320 million since its inception. That's a part of the museum's story that isn't fully known or appreciated.

The Holocaust Museum has not only demonstrated that public/private part-

nerships can work—it has set the standard for such partnerships. Much has changed since that bitter cold, rainy day 5 years ago when the Holocaust Museum was dedicated.

Before the museum opened, I understand that the most optimistic estimates were that 700,000 people a year would walk through its doors. That first year, and every year since, I am now told, 2 million visitors have come to the museum—5,000 people every day. Before the museum opened, I well remember that there were some who questioned whether it should be built on the National Mall, since the Holocaust did not take place in our country.

Today, the Holocaust Memorial Museum is a fundamental part of this city. Not only does it belong on the Mall, but it gives a deeper meaning to the other great memorials there. Ask anyone who has been through the museum and they will tell you. The Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial have never looked so beautiful—and freedom and democracy have never seemed as precious—as they do when you emerge from the darkness of that extraordinary building.

Elie Weisel has said, "Survivors are understood by survivors only. They speak in code. All outsiders could do was come close to the gates." That is what the Holocaust Memorial Museum allows us to do: to come close to the gates; to see; to grieve; and, finally, to learn, so that we can pass the knowledge on from generation to generation, about what can happen when intolerance and hatred are allowed to spread unchecked.

Elie Weisel is right. We cannot walk on the shoes of the victims, or the survivors. But we can see their shoes—that heartbreaking room full of dress shoes and work boots and baby shoes. And it is one of the many paradoxes of the museum, that in looking at something as simple as those shoes, we can begin to feel the profound tragedy of that terrible time.

Anyone who has been there knows, the Holocaust Museum is not an easy place to visit. The images in it are not images of beauty, but of incomprehensible evil. People always spend longer in the museum than they expect. And they leave shattered. But they also leave changed. It is one of the few museums in the world that has the capacity to change people fundamentally.

It teaches many lessons. One of the most profound lessons is about the horrors that can be unleashed when we deny the basic humanity of even one person. Another is what can happen to democracy when we are not vigilant in its protection.

The museum also teaches us about the necessity of leadership dedicated to preventing intolerance, hatred and oppression. For members of Congress, that is an especially important lesson. And the presence of the museum on the mall is a constant reminder of it.

Perhaps the most dramatic example of its influence on Congress was 2 years