

point is—as I get myself in more trouble as I speak—we had our child David, and we hardly had any income. After, I think, six weeks, Sheila had to go back to work.

Now we have family medical leave, but it is unpaid leave. If you don't have much money, you have to work. It was a wrenching experience, a wrenching experience to not be able to spend more time with your infant. She had to work, and I was a student and I was working. So then what happens? As it turns out, we look for what we can afford. There was a woman, a child-care giver, and she takes care of children, and we take him to her. We thought she would be good. But then after a couple of days of picking him up and he was just sort of limp, he had no expression in his face, and he had been so lively before, so we don't know what has happened. So I drop by this home in the middle of the day, and I see all these infants in playpens with pacifiers. They are not being picked up. They are not being touched. I felt so guilty I called my mom and dad and said I am going to quit school; I am going to work. I can't have him put in this situation. And we got some help from my parents. They were able to help us. I don't know how they did it on their income.

Do you think that young parents who have the same experience today like the fact that they know they have no other choice but to drop their infant off in a child-care center? They know that maybe the people there aren't real well trained. People make precious little money that are involved in this area, but what choice do they have? They can't afford \$12,000 a year if they have two small children.

Is there anything in this piece of legislation or anything my Republican colleagues are doing in this session, in the Senate, that speaks to this question of how parents can do better by their children; how we can make sure that children come to kindergarten, ready to learn? That is a big education initiative. The answer is no. What do we have instead? \$1.7 billion over 5 years, amounting to about \$7 per family, and that is called a major education initiative?

Is there anything in this piece of legislation that speaks to afterschool care? Let's have some sympathy with parents—single parents or both parents. Do you think parents like the fact that their 11-year-old—it is astounding, and I forget the percentage, how many 11 and 12-year-olds are home alone; it is a very high percentage. Do you think the parents like the fact they both have to work—they have no other choice—in order to have income. Some of them are working two jobs. They don't even have enough time to be with their children at home they are working so hard.

Do you think a person likes the fact that his or her daughter age 11 or age 7, goes home alone and watches trash TV talk shows and eats junk food and

there is nobody to take care of them? Do you think a parent likes the fact when we hear so many things that are not so good that happen between 3 o'clock in the afternoon and 6 p.m.—do you think the parents like that? Wouldn't they like to have some really good school programs, some community programs, where their kids could be doing positive things and wouldn't be home alone, and the only reason they are home alone is because both parents have to work? No, they don't like it. So why don't we help these parents with a real education initiative. There is not a thing in this piece of legislation that deals with that at all.

Mr. President, I have to say that this proposal, which is supposed to be the major education initiative of the Republican Party, provides help in inverse relationship to need, does zero for public education, does practically zero for working families, doesn't represent a step forward, but represents a great leap backward. The President is right to veto this piece of legislation. We must start all over again.

I will just say to my colleagues that I think you are playing with fire. You are playing with fire with a piece of legislation that you tout as a major education reform bill that does next to nothing to make sure that we expand educational opportunity for all of our children in our country.

I thought that children were 100 percent of our future. So I want to know, colleagues, where is our commitment to making sure that there is really good care for children before they even get to kindergarten? Where is our commitment to making sure if we are to follow the advice of all these studies that are coming out, all of this medical evidence about the development of the brain, to make sure that children have really good developmental child care? The answer is there is no commitment here. My colleagues in the majority of the Republican Party have no initiative at all.

Where is the commitment to rebuild the crumbling schools and to have the teacher training and to have smaller class size and to make sure that the Internet and all this new technology means that all the schools are wired and teachers know how to work with it and children and young people become literate in this area? The answer is there is no commitment whatsoever.

Mr. President, I have come to the floor to speak against this piece of legislation. I hope my colleagues will vote against it. I hope the President will veto it. Then we must come back to education again.

Colleagues, it is not enough to be giving speeches about this. I apply that to myself, as well. It is not enough to have photo opportunities with small children. We all love to have our pictures taken with children. It is not enough to be in the schools once in a while. And it is not enough to say that young people are our future. If we don't make the commitment, backed by solid

legislation, with resources to get to communities so we can do well for all the children in our country, then from my point of view, we will not have been honest. We will not have done all that we should do. By the way, when I say "honest," I don't mean as in personally honest. Senator COVERDELL, the author of this bill, is a friend and I respect him. But I think in terms of the effect of this, it doesn't honestly reach children in our country; it doesn't honestly contribute to public education; it doesn't honestly contribute to the education of the vast majority of young people in the United States of America. Therefore, colleagues ought to vote against it.

Mr. President, how much time do we have left?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has approximately 30 minutes remaining.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, before reserving the balance of our time, I want to just comment on one other matter, which I have tried to speak on every week.

I ask unanimous consent that I may speak as in morning business.

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

NOMINATION OF JAMES HORMEL

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, it has been—I am trying to remember now—almost a year since James Hormel was voted out of Foreign Relations Committee by a 16-2 vote. I have said this a number of times on the floor of the Senate, and I want to keep saying it.

James Hormel, I think, is eminently qualified to be Ambassador to Luxembourg. He has a very, very, very distinguished record as an educator, as a businessman, as a philanthropist, and as somebody who has given to many, many communities in our country. I see no reason whatsoever why we do not have an up-or-down vote on this on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

Mr. President, I have said it to colleagues directly. I don't say it indirectly. I want to make terribly sure that the reason Mr. James Hormel's nomination has not been brought to the floor is not because of discrimination against him because of his sexual orientation. I hope that is not the case, but I do believe that we need to have an honest discussion about this nomination. We need to have a full-scale debate, and we need to have an up-or-down vote.

I think we should judge people by the content of their character. I think we should judge people by their vision and by their leadership ability. It is my fervent hope that the majority leader will bring this nomination to the floor. I have said that I am looking for a vehicle—we have things kind of snarled up here right now—on which to bring an amendment out that in one way or another will put an even sharper focus on this question.

I do intend to speak out and I intend to use whatever leverage I have as a Senator to continue to push on this question. If Senators have reasons for objecting to Mr. Hormel's nomination, let them come out here and speak. Let us have an honest debate. If, God forbid, there are objections to him based upon his sexual orientation, then I think the U.S. Senate needs to look at itself in the mirror, because I think we can do better than that.

I yield the floor and reserve the balance of our time.

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. FRIST. 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. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLEMENT AND JESSIE STONE

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to mark a special date in the lives of two of my friends, Clement and Jessie Stone, who celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary this past weekend.

Mr. Stone is well known to people throughout the world as a successful executive, a generous philanthropist, and for his writings on topics related to business, management, and positive thinking. Millions of people have read his inspirational books, and his insightful advice on the above topics has changed countless lives for the better. Few people are as well known, well read, or well regarded, as Clement Stone and he can truly be proud of all that he has accomplished in his rich and long life.

Despite his considerable wealth, his many awards and recognitions, and his international fame, I am certain that the one thing Clement Stone values and treasures more than anything else in life is his marriage to his high school sweetheart, a union that has lasted three-quarters of one century. It is almost unheard of for two people to be married for 75-years, but Jessie and Clement have not only done so, but I am told that their affection and regard for one another has not waned one bit since they exchanged vows on June 16, 1923. Without question, they are an inspiration to one and all.

As Clement and Jessie mark this auspicious milestone in their lives and their marriage, they will be doing so with friends and family, including a large number of grandchildren and

great grandchildren. I join all of them in wishing the Stones a happy anniversary and many more years of health and happiness.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, June 22, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,496,659,912,687.35 (Five trillion, four hundred ninety-six billion, six hundred fifty-nine million, nine hundred twelve thousand, six hundred eighty-seven dollars and thirty-five cents).

Five years ago, June 22, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,299,889,000,000 (Four trillion, two hundred ninety-nine billion, eight hundred eighty-nine million).

Ten years ago, June 22, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,526,369,000,000 (Two trillion, five hundred twenty-six billion, three hundred sixty-nine million).

Fifteen years ago, June 22, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,303,008,000,000 (One trillion, three hundred three billion, eight million).

Twenty-five years ago, June 22, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$453,584,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-three billion, five hundred eighty-four million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,043,075,912,687.35 (Five trillion, forty-three billion, seventy-five million, nine hundred twelve thousand, six hundred eighty-seven dollars and thirty-five cents) during the past 25 years.

THE VIOLENT AND REPEAT OFFENDER ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, since S. 10 was voted out of the Judiciary Committee almost one year ago, I have spoken on the floor of the Senate and at hearings on numerous occasions to urge its Republican sponsors to work with me in a bipartisan and open manner to improve this juvenile crime bill. Instead of dialogue, the sponsors of this legislation have played games of "Hide and Seek" with the revisions they were making to the bill.

I am delighted to see reflected in the brief "DRAFT" summary circulated by the sponsors of the bill that they are finally and belatedly making certain changes that they voted down during the Committee's consideration of this bill. The "devil is in the details", however, so I and my Democratic colleagues are eager to see the full text of this revised bill.

Unfortunately, the sponsors of this bill were not willing to work with me last year when we would have had a much better chance of moving this important legislation. Now, as we head toward the end of this Congress and still face a number of vital appropriations matters to consider, time is running out to complete action on a juvenile crime bill. Those who will suffer from the dilatory manner in which this bill was handled are the children of this country and America's law enforcement officers and prosecutors who are eager for the additional resources available in this bill.

I am delighted to see that the legislation is being revised to include changes proposed by Democrats that the Republican sponsors previously rejected, including:

Retention of State Presumption to Prosecute Juveniles: The revised S. 10 will apparently preserve the "presumption in favor of state prosecution" for juveniles who face concurrent state and federal jurisdiction over the offense committed. This language is clearly based on amendments I and others proposed to avoid the federalization of juvenile crime that has prompted expressions of concern by Chief Justice Rehnquist and the Judicial Conference States have had primary responsibility for handling juvenile cases, and they should continue to do so.

Death Penalty: The new S. 10 apparently would not subject juveniles to the federal death penalty, another policy which Democratic members of the Committee insisted upon during Committee debate. As introduced, S. 10 allowed the imposition of the death penalty for juveniles as young as sixteen.

Increased Flexibility for the Incentive Block Grant program: The strict earmarks in this block grant for building more juvenile facilities, drug testing juveniles and enhancing State recordkeeping systems would have imposed a one-size-fits-all strait jacket on the States. The sponsors of the bill, apparently, have finally recognized how critical it is to provide flexibility to the States because State and local officials are much better able to determine how to reduce juvenile delinquency rates in their own communities.

Revised Recordkeeping Provisions: For over a year, I have repeatedly told my colleagues that no State in the nation would be eligible for S. 10's Incentive Block Grant, since none currently complies with the strict recordkeeping requirements. Moreover, at my request, the Department of Justice conducted a study which concluded that the extensive recordkeeping requirements in this bill would cost States "hundreds of millions of dollars." I urged the authors of this bill to narrow the focus of the recordkeeping to those juveniles who are most likely to be repeat offenders, namely, those who commit acts which would be a felony if committed by an adult. The sponsors have apparently finally heeded these common sense concerns and promise to correct these flaws—even though they voted down amendments I proposed to make these corrections.

Increased Funding for Prosecutors: The sponsors have also finally agreed to double the funds available to prosecutors. It is unfortunate that they refused to work this out in Committee last year so that additional prosecutors could be at work right now.