

between the two presidential candidates is very clear—and it is clear on every other aspect of health care. The Bush record in Texas is one of indifference and ineptitude—of putting powerful interests ahead of ordinary families.

The Bush record in the campaign is one of consistent deception and distortion. The Bush proposals are at best inadequate and at worst harmful. Tax cuts for the wealthy are not as important as health care for children and prescription drugs for seniors. The American people understand that—but Governor Bush does not.

AL GORE has a career-long record of fighting for good health care for families, for children, and for senior citizens. The current administration has a solid record of bipartisan accomplishment, ranging from protecting the solvency of Medicare to improving health insurance coverage through enactment of the Kassebaum-Kennedy bill and the Child Health Insurance Program. AL GORE's program responds to the real needs of the American people with real resources and a detailed action plan.

I am hopeful that every American will examine the records of the two candidates carefully. On health care, there should be no question as to which candidate stands with powerful special interests and which candidate stands with the American people. The choice is clear. Governor Bush stands with the powerful, and AL GORE stands with the people.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, will the Senator yield? The Senator's words have kind of strayed a little bit from the Older Americans Act. Perhaps I could put in a unanimous consent request so that the Senator from Massachusetts is aware and so that we perhaps can do something else.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry. It is my understanding the Senator from Massachusetts is speaking under a unanimous consent agreement. He can speak for as long he wants.

Mr. JEFFORDS. On the Older Americans Act, I believe.

Mr. REID. No. There is no subject.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time is under the control of Senator JEFFORDS.

Mr. REID. I thought that under the unanimous consent agreement he could speak for as long as he needs.

Mr. KENNEDY. Parliamentary inquiry? I believe when I started to speak there was still time.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I am just asking what happens at the end. I would like to put a unanimous consent request in to make sure that we have time available before we vote.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I yield for that purpose, if he wants to make that request at this time with the understanding that I be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If the Senator from Vermont would state his unanimous consent request?

Mr. JEFFORDS. Following the remarks of Senator KENNEDY, I ask unanimous consent all time be yielded back on the bill and that there be 30 minutes equally divided for closing remarks prior to the vote on the bill with Senator GREGG to be recognized for the last 15 minutes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I understand that at 4:30 we would go to general debate on this bill with Senator GREGG getting the last 15 minutes.

Mr. JEFFORDS. That is correct.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. KENNEDY. Reserving the right to object, as I understand it, if this is not objected to, then we are in a period of morning business without a time limitation.

Mr. REID. The Senator from Massachusetts, I say to the Presiding Officer, has no time constraint on his speaking now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the 24½ minutes that are now remaining in opposition to the Gregg amendment, time has been yielded for as much as he may consume to the Senator from Massachusetts after which the previous unanimous consent agreement will take effect.

The Senator may complete his statement.

Mr. KENNEDY. That is the order as stated by the Senator from Vermont. Am I correct?

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate enter into a period of morning business until the hour of 3 p.m. with the time equally divided in the usual form.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, does the Senator from Vermont have any idea what we will do at 3 o'clock?

Mr. JEFFORDS. I have no idea.

Mr. REID. My point is, I say to my friend from Vermont, that until we have something more to do on the floor—we have had a number of requests on this side and probably on your side for people to speak in morning business—we will wait until 3 p.m. If there is no other business, we will go into morning business at 3 o'clock.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, would it be appropriate to inquire now if I could be placed on the list to speak as if in morning business for approximately 10 minutes?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. When does the Senator wish to speak?

Ms. LANDRIEU. Following Senator KENNEDY's time, which I understand would be about 20 more minutes, and then we go into morning business. I understand Senator ALLARD also wants to speak. I would be happy to follow Senator ALLARD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

EDUCATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to just take a few minutes to review the education record. I think I have tried to outline in as an objective way as possible what the record is with regard to health, particularly with regard to children in the State of Texas, the Governor's record on the Patients' Bill of Rights, on the CHIP program, and also on the Medicaid program.

I think one can't review that record—not only my statements or the statements in the most recent Time Magazine which have drawn effectively the exact same conclusion—and not reach the conclusion that children have not been a priority on the political agenda of Texas over the period of the last six years.

On the issue of education, I spoke briefly yesterday in the Senate. I am troubled, as many of our colleagues, that we are not having cloture on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. In spite of all of the assurances that were given by the majority leader and Republican leadership, we still failed to do it.

I commend again our colleagues, Senator DEWINE, Senator JEFFORDS, Senator MIKULSKI, and others for effectively concluding the Older Americans Act shows even in these final hours that bipartisanship can work in a very important area. I welcome the chance to work with our colleagues on the committee and the chairman to make sure that we are going to take action. That is an enormously important piece of legislation for our seniors.

Education is enormously important for families as well. In spite of the fact that assurances were given by the majority, we still have not done so. For the first time in 35 years, we have not completed our work and reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

What has to be a central distress to all families is it appears now that the appropriations that are going to fund the Elementary and Secondary Education Act will be the last train out of the station.

They are more than 3½ weeks late after the end of the fiscal year. It is troublesome to me to hear all of the statements about the importance of prioritizing education when we see that we have basically failed to do our work here in the Senate on this issue.

I want to take a moment to find out what we might look to in terms of the future, again looking to what has happened in Texas over the period of these last several years.

On the issue of the record on education in Texas, it is more of an "education mirage" than an "education miracle."

Under Governor Bush, in 1998, according to the National Center for Educational Statistics, Texas ranked 45th in the nation in high school completion