

today, it adjourn until 9 a.m. on Friday, April 2nd. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Tomorrow the Senate will be in session for the transaction of routine morning business. There will be no rollcall votes during Friday's session. The next rollcall vote will occur on Wednesday of next week. I will have more to say on that in the morning.

Next week, there are a number of issues that may be addressed. There is an important medical liability bill being introduced by Senator GREGG and others, Pregnancy and Trauma Care Access Protection Act of 2004. That bill deserves to be debated and voted on. We will try to schedule that bill for next week. I will continue to hold out hope that we will be able to finish the JOBS bill, which is the FSC/ETI bill.

Senators have come to the floor over the course of the last several weeks discussing the importance of this bill. Yet we have been unable to vote on the legislation as the WTO sanctions continue each day. In fact, today, since this is 1 month after the sanctions began, the sanctions were increased by \$40 million. We must move expeditiously on that bill. It is a priority for the Senate. We will have an opportunity next week to speak on this bill.

The pension reform conference report is another piece of legislation that should be moved expeditiously. The House may act on that conference report later this evening or on Friday. I will be talking to my colleagues about scheduling that conference report for Senate action.

Finally, the conferees on the budget resolution continue to meet and it is important to address the budget conference report as soon as that does become available. Having said that, we have a lot of work to do and not a lot of time to do it. We will be working each day next week with an effort to schedule the above-mentioned items throughout.

In addition, next week we have accommodated Members' schedules for the observance of Passover. I will have more to say on the specific schedule for rollcall votes on Wednesday, April 7. However, we will have no vote prior to 2:15 on that day on Wednesday.

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

MR. FRIST. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent the Senate

stand in adjournment under the previous order, following the completion of the remarks of Senator DAYTON and following the remarks of Senator SARBANES, each for up to 10 minutes.

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

#### VOTING TO HELP THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I am troubled by some of the comments made earlier as we debated whether to continue with this bill before us. In particular, one of the leaders on the other side of the aisle is quoted in today's paper as saying—this a direct quote—"Why put our Members through the whole litany of Democratic political votes for no discernible gain?"

I am amazed at the implication these amendments we in the Democratic caucus are trying in vain to have voted upon by the Senate are political votes. I am even more astonished it could be said they are for no discernible gain.

For whose gain are we talking? Not, perhaps, for Republican Members of the Senate. But that is not the purpose of our amendments. These are amendments to benefit the American people.

We are talking about extending unemployment benefits for the over 1.1 million Americans who have exhausted those benefits since December of last year. The Children's Defense Fund, originators of the No Child Left Behind concept, are committed to seeing it carried out and have estimated 622,000 American children live in families whose parents have exhausted their unemployment benefits. They estimate each of those families loses an average of \$1,100 a month in income when their unemployment benefits run out. It drives over a third of them below the poverty level. Over two-thirds of those families lose their health care coverage.

No discernible gain from a vote on extending unemployment benefits? Perhaps not to the Republican caucus. But it would surely make a huge difference to 1.1 million American adults and their 622,000 children.

No discernible gain to a vote on protecting overtime pay for some 8 million Americans who stand to lose those benefits through the unilateral action of the Secretary of Labor? These are not idle political gestures. These are real decisions affecting the lives of millions of Americans.

It may be inconvenient for some Members to vote on them, but that is our responsibility in this body.

#### EDUCATION FUNDING

As another illustration of how these votes and these decisions really do affect people's lives, about a month ago we were holding rollcall votes regarding the budget resolution for the next fiscal year, and just about that same time the Secretary of Education was in my State of Minnesota, where he met with educators and with State officials, and with, evidently, some of the Mem-

bers of the Minnesota congressional delegation on the other side of the aisle—I was not invited to either of those meetings, which seemed a shame since they were being billed as non-political meetings, but, nevertheless, they did occur—and at that meeting—again, I was not invited, so I was not there—according to the reports of those who attended, the Secretary assured these Minnesota educators that No Child Left Behind is adequately funded.

Well, there had been rumors that there were going to be cutbacks affecting Minnesota in the title I program, which is the major source of funds under the so-called No Child Left Behind. So the Minnesota educators were temporarily relieved by that, until just a few weeks later—scarcely a month later, in fact—when the actual title I allocations for the next fiscal year, 2005, became known.

Lo and behold, Minnesota will experience a reduction of over \$2.5 million. Only two States in the Nation are going to experience cuts in title I funding from the year 2004 to the next year, 2005: Massachusetts and Minnesota.

Now, I am not running for President or anything else, for that matter, this year, so I am shocked that Minnesota would be paired with Massachusetts as being the only two States to be cut back in title I dollars at the same time we are experiencing an increase in the children who are eligible for title I funding. As that reduction gets spread across our school districts, some of the consequences are very severe. Quite a number of districts will be taken off of title I funding whatsoever. They will not be able to serve any of the children in those school districts who are eligible, individually, for title I.

One of the school districts, Anoka-Hennepin, is going to experience a 40-percent reduction in funding for title I programs at the same time the number of children eligible for title I is going up.

Now, how can we say that there is no child going to be left behind under this program, and that it is adequately funded, when a school district such as that is going to experience a 40-percent reduction in funding? How is it that two States in the Nation—Massachusetts and Minnesota—are going to see a reduction in funding while the overall program nationwide is going to receive a \$1 billion increase?

Why are we being punished? Why are we being penalized? Why are we being singled out for those reductions? Why does the Secretary of Education come to our State one month earlier and assure our educators that there is plenty of money, that these reductions are not going to take place, when either he did not know—in which case he was unbelievably ill-informed—or he knew and did not speak honestly to our educators? And either one of those I find enormously reprehensible.