

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.

Mr. President, \$2,727,000 is a huge loss in money for the disadvantaged children of the State of Minnesota, meaning that less than half—less than half—of all the children in my State who are eligible for title I funding are actually going to get services provided to them. And that is no child left behind? That is a fraud. That is adequate funding for No Child Left Behind? That is a lie. That is a lie.

In this room I have heard it said several times: There is plenty of money for title I. There is plenty of money for No Child Left Behind. Not for Minnesota. We were underfunded before, and it is being cut back now. We are one of two States being cut. I ask the Secretary of Education: I want to know why. Come back to Minnesota, Mr. Secretary, now that you have the facts, evidently. Come back to Minnesota and meet with those educators and tell them why, why our money is being cut back.

The chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee has stood on this floor—and I have had this debate with him; he is not here presently, but I look forward to that opportunity again in the future—saying there is additional money available to the States under No Child Left Behind. In fact, there is so much additional money that some States don't know what to do with it all.

Well, I can see why that distinguished Senator made that statement, because in his home State, over the last 5 years, they have experienced a 44-percent increase in funding under title I. In this next year, they are going to receive an increase of almost the same \$2.5 million which Minnesota is going to lose. They will receive an 8.1-percent increase in title I funding, whereas we will experience a reduction of over \$2,727,000.

So I guess for some States this is a good deal because they are getting more money. I am glad they are, if they have that additional need. But the State of Minnesota has the additional need, also. More children are coming in from all over the world; children who need English second-language skills; children who are without any education from countries that have been war ravaged for years; children coming from other States with educational achievement levels grades behind the students in Minnesota.

We cannot offer the services they are entitled to under Federal law that existed before No Child Left Behind? We cannot offer the services that were promised to them and to us as a condition for voting in favor of No Child Left Behind? I voted against that, I will confess, as did my colleague at the time in the Senate. Maybe that is why Minnesota is being singled out and punished. I do not know. I do not understand why, except that I know the two Senators from Massachusetts—one is the ranking member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, and he certainly made a com-

mitment to this program at the time because he was assured there was going to be full funding; the other Senator, of course, is now the Democratic candidate for President of the United States. I find it really not coincidental that is one of the two States that is singled out to be cut back in funds.

But I do not understand why Minnesota—why Minnesota—is suffering accordingly. It is wrong. It is wrong to be cutting back funds when you are saying to the American people that no child is going to be left behind and then you turn around and make that a lie. It is wrong. It is unfair to the State of Minnesota.

Mr. Secretary of Education, you owe it to our State to come back and explain to our educators why it is that they are going to have to do more with less next year. Why is it that we are one of two States being cut back?

I am deeply offended. On behalf of the people of Minnesota, I am enraged that we are being treated in this unfair way—and on behalf, most of all, of the children in the State of Minnesota who are not going to be receiving the special services to which they are entitled. We are going to force cutbacks in educational services affecting all of our schoolchildren. They are being left behind, Mr. Secretary. Mr. President, they are being left behind. What are you going to do about it?

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Maryland is recognized for up to 10 minutes.

CONGRATULATING SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, earlier in the day, a number of my colleagues took the floor to pay tribute and respect to my dear friend and colleague, Senator BYRD. I was unable to be here because I was involved in a markup of legislation. I want to take a few moments now, as we bring the day's business to a close, to pay tribute to my very good friend on the occasion of his 17,000th vote in the Senate, an all-time record.

The distinguished Senator from West Virginia has given this Nation and his beloved State of West Virginia the very best in public service. The civility, the intelligence, the commitment, and dedication that Senator BYRD brings to this body commands the respect and admiration of every Member of the Senate. That has been expressed from time to time by many of us in this Chamber.

The vote today is but one of many milestones for Senator BYRD, but it does offer all of us the opportunity to reflect upon his very special place in the Senate.

Senator BYRD often refers to the Senate as a "pillar of the Constitution." I think it is fair to refer to Senator BYRD as a "pillar of the Senate." The Senator's dedication to this body and

its history—he has written, after all, the definitive history of the U.S. Senate—its customs and its procedures are unequalled by any other Member I have known. And his dedication to the Senate ranks with his dedication to the country, to the State of West Virginia, and to the Constitution.

As this body's indisputable expert on parliamentary procedure, it is only fitting that Senator BYRD's first vote, the first of the 17,000 votes that we celebrate today, was cast on January 8, 1959, and was procedural in nature. That vote began, of course, a legacy of extraordinary leadership and service in this body.

The able Senator from West Virginia has not only employed his mastery of how the Senate functions effectively in floor debates, but he has used it to pass on and protect and perfect the spirit of this body which he has called "the cornerstone of our constitutional system."

Given this incredible record of service and experience, Senator BYRD now, I think fairly, stands as both the intellect and the conscience of this Chamber. He constantly reminds us of the fundamentals of our democracy and the role the Framers of our Constitution envisioned for the legislative branch.

No Member of the U.S. Congress has a deeper understanding of the Constitution and of the Legislature's vital function as a guardian of our fundamental national document.

It is because of this institutional knowledge, his devotion to the Senate's distinguishing characteristics, and his devotion to the civility that has customarily underpinned the interaction of the Members of this body that in times of severe national crisis, and on occasion constitutional crisis when the Senate is faced with the most difficult of choices, Members from both sides of the aisle have sought the leadership of Senator ROBERT C. BYRD of West Virginia.

I consider it a singular honor to serve with him in the Senate. I congratulate him on casting his 17,000th vote, and I look forward to seeing him cast many more.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9 a.m., Friday, April 2, 2004.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:12 p.m., adjourned until Friday, April 2, 2004, at 9 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate April 1, 2004:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

OTIS WEBB BRAWLEY, JR., OF GEORGIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 20, 2009. (REAPPOINTMENT)