

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The amendment (No. 5212) was agreed to.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 6143), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

ACCEPTING AND DISPLAYING A BUST OF SOJOURNER TRUTH

Mr. ENSIGN. I ask unanimous consent the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4510, and that the Senate then proceed to its consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4510) to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to accept the donation of a bust depicting Sojourner Truth and to display the bust in a suitable location in the rotunda of the Capitol.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ENSIGN. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD without intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4510) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—S. 4080

Mr. ENSIGN. I understand that there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4080) to amend title 17, United States Code, with respect to settlement agreements reached with respect to litigation involving certain secondary transmissions of superstations and network stations.

Mr. ENSIGN. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceeding.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. ENSIGN. I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

IMPROVING AMERICA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, for 12 years, I have served the people of Tennessee as a U.S. Senator. Before I joined this body, I spent 20 years practicing medicine—as a transplant surgeon.

But I spent even more time—nearly 30 years—getting the education necessary for me to pursue a career at the cutting edge of transplant surgery.

Without that education, I couldn't have pursued my dream of helping people.

The fact is, education is an essential cornerstone in our society. Not just in the United States but around the world—across the global society.

Not only does a sound education increase the global competitiveness of America's workforce, but it also enables each and every worker to pursue the American dream, in his or her own way.

Here in America, we have a rich history of working hard. We set goals. We visualize dreams. And then we doggedly pursue them, with stubborn perseverance.

But as hard as we work, unless we possess the tools and the knowledge and the "know how," we are not optimizing our resources. That means it is our best interest to pursue the best education possible. It is in our best interest to strengthen our education system so we can better equip future generations.

That is why I have supported a number of measures that enhance America's education system.

Take the President's No Child Left Behind Act, which I proudly cosponsored. It set high standards for schools around the country. It is a comprehensive overhaul of the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act based on 4 pillars: accountability and testing, flexibility and local control, funding for what works, and expanded parental options.

We laid the groundwork for No Child Left Behind with ED-Flex, to give States more flexibility in how they use Federal education dollars.

More recently, we passed the first-ever comprehensive reform and improvement of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

We crafted this strongly bipartisan legislation with input from parents, educators, and disability groups—with the primary goal of ensuring disabled students are achieving.

Streamlining regulations, simplifying and improving the integrity of the conflict resolution process, reducing the paperwork burden for special education teachers, improving existing discipline provisions while still ensuring disabled children's rights are protected—with every provision, we helped principals, teachers, and parents better address the needs of disabled students.

Enhancing and strengthening our Nation's education system must occur at every level—primary, secondary, and beyond, in colleges and universities.

My SMART grant legislation took education reform to the university level, and without a doubt, among the education improvements I have supported over the years, SMART grants hold pride of place in my heart.

SMART grants are a new student aid initiative that provide incentives for promoting math and science education and consequently represent a dramatic step toward ensuring America's future global economic competitiveness.

Let me put it in perspective: China and India generate scientists and engineers at a furious pace while America lags dangerously behind.

We haven't reached the crisis point yet. We still have the best research universities in the world. We take home the lion's share of Nobel prizes in the sciences. We lead the planet in most high-tech fields. And we produce more top scientists and engineers per capita than any country with an economy even close to our size.

But for every one engineer we graduate in America, China graduates eight and India graduates four.

SMART grants help America maintain our competitive edge by providing aid to Pell grant-eligible students who maintain a 3.0 GPA and major in math, science, engineering, technology, or foreign languages critical to national security during their third and fourth years of college.

These funds help incentivize more students to major in these time-intensive studies and they help America produce the quality workforce necessary to compete in today's global economy.

But there is still more Congress can do to strengthen our education system and further enhance our America's competitiveness.

Right now, we stand at a crossroads. Unless we continue moving to improve our education system at all levels, we could very well face economic stagnation and a loss of global scientific leadership.

We can't afford to let that happen.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business until the hour of 11:30 with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent at the conclusion of my remarks the Senator from New Mexico, Senator BINGAMAN, be recognized.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING SENATORIAL SERVICE

Mr. REED. Mr. President, this is an opportunity to recognize the service of several of our colleagues who are departing from the Senate. To Senator JEFFORDS, Senator FRIST, Senator DEWINE, Senator TALENT, Senator