

would have no way to detect any difference of performance, any less dedication or any less efficiency.

So I wish to commend the leaders for providing that kind of virus that infects our staff and creates a harmonious committee. Senator BYRD, the ranking member of our committee, certainly has become again a part of that overall philosophy and that kind of performance of our committee, and I wish to take this time to thank Senator BYRD as well, the ranking member of the full committee.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

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

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 641

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate, at 1:30 p.m., turn to the consideration of Calendar No. 47, S. 641, the Ryan White Care Act.

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

Mr. LOTT. It is the hope of the leadership that all of the opening statements would be concluded on this bill today and an amendment would be laid down for consideration when the Senate returns to this item next week.

With that announcement, there will be no further votes today. The first votes on Monday will occur beginning at 5 p.m.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

Mr. McCONNELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

ETHICS COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to take just a moment to respond to the distinguished Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER], who has been working to achieve public hearings on the sexual misconduct case against Senator PACKWOOD.

Mr. President, on July 10, several Senators wrote to me and the vice chairman urging the committee to convene public hearings. Several days later, my friend from California wrote to us on her own to inform us if the Ethics Committee had not voted to hold public hearings within a week of

her July 14 letter, she would seek a vote of the full Senate on the issue of public hearings in the Packwood case.

Today, the Senator said that if the committee has not met by the close of business today, she will bring her legislation to the floor at the first opportunity next week.

Mr. President, I think I speak for all committee chairmen and chairwomen as well as previous chairmen and chairwomen when I say our committee schedule and agenda must not be dictated by another Senator. As strongly as the Senator from California believes there should be hearings in the Packwood case, I strongly believe that the Ethics Committee's timetable must not be set by a single Senator.

One thing is certain. The Ethics Committee will not meet today and will not schedule a future meeting today. We will not respond to any attempts to threaten the committee. If we open the door to that, in the future there could well be numerous efforts to bring ethics matters to the full Senate, and that is a dangerous road to take, Mr. President.

The committee would like to complete work on the Packwood case but perhaps everyone needs a cooling-off period. As long as Senator BOXER's threat remains, the cooling-off period will continue.

The one issue Senator BOXER and I agree upon is that the case before the committee is a serious one. It is one which has commanded the attention of committee members for countless hours over the last 2½ years. The committee members have labored long and hard, and they know much more about this case than any other Member of the Senate.

There is much to say about the Packwood case. Now is not the time to say it. I can assure my colleagues and the Senator from California that at the appropriate time, I will speak fully about the case and about the committee's work. At that time, I hope my colleagues will have a better understanding of the significance and the dimension of the matter.

The Senator's efforts are ill-informed and badly timed. After all, the committee lost practically a year in a legal dispute over obtaining Senator PACKWOOD's diary as evidence in the case. If Senator BOXER takes us on another such frolic and detour, it will only further distract us and prevent us from concluding this important case, and it will interfere with the Senate's agenda and the work the American people sent us here to do.

So if we find ourselves on the floor in the coming days debating legislation regarding hearings in the Packwood case or any other subject related to Ethics Committee procedures, I will be prepared, and I am sure others will be prepared, to discuss and debate congressional action on misconduct cases in the past and other relevant issues.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

Mr. SPECTER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

RESCISSIONS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I had sought recognition prior to the votes on the amendments offered by the Senator from Illinois, Senator CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN, and the Senator from Minnesota, Senator PAUL WELLSTONE, prior to those votes. But since all time had expired and there was a tight timetable because other Senators wished to catch planes, there was not an opportunity to speak, and I would like to make a few brief comments at this time.

I opposed those amendments not because I would not have preferred to have seen the additional funding in those important accounts, but because those issues had been resolved in a very extensive negotiation session with the House of Representatives and further proceedings with the White House.

When Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN made the statement, yes, we have to make cuts, that they have to be made fairly, I certainly agree with her totally. The measure which came out of the subcommittee which I chair, the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education, was a vigorous, incisive, strenuous effort to make those cuts as fairly as we could and to establish priorities.

When the amendment offered by Senator WELLSTONE and Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN included veterans job training, displaced workers job training, education infrastructure, safe and drug free schools, education technology, Eisenhower professional development, job training partnership youth job training and the job training partnership adult job training, I would have wanted very much to have included those additional sums. My voting record is plain on that subject.

In fact, when the House of Representatives sent over a rescissions package of \$5.9 billion, as a result of action taken by the Senate subcommittee which I chair and then the full Senate in extended proceedings, that \$5.9 billion in cuts was reduced by some \$3 billion so that we did restore a tremendous amount of money.

When it comes to the question of LIHEAP, low-income heat and energy assistance, as Senator WELLSTONE noted—I was on the floor at the time—he referred to the Senator from Pennsylvania as a champion of LIHEAP, which I thank him for and I think the record of the last 15 years will support.

When the House of Representatives had sent over \$5.9 billion in cuts and had zeroed out \$1.319 billion, I made a fight of it. I started that fight and won it by reinserting \$1 billion of those funds and seeing to it that we added an additional \$300 million to the President's emergency fund. That means

that we brought the amount practically to the full \$1.319 billion. I would have to say that was a total victory.

So when Senator WELLSTONE and Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN seek an amendment to add \$319 million, I would like to see that extra funding. I have said on the Senate floor that when it comes to the poor and the elderly, that it is a matter of heating or eating. Those funds are really very, very important. But we are going to have further negotiations with the House of Representatives, and the House has already indicated that they want to eliminate all funding for LIHEAP in the future.

It was not easy for me to vote to table the amendment adding \$319 million for LIHEAP funding, but I did so because we had already crafted a hard-fought-out compromise which had, in effect, restored \$1.3 billion, leaving only \$19 million short. I am going to have to go back and deal with the House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education and try to work the matter out. So I am hardly in a position to support Senator WELLSTONE and Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN.

We are looking at a very, very difficult budget, Mr. President, as we all know. I am convinced that we need to balance the budget. We have a 7-year glidepath to get that done. These votes are not easy to explain, and it is not difficult for other Senators, after seeing the work done, to come in and say, "I'd like to add some more money here." We all would. But it is simply not realistic to do.

The final budget, the final figure was worked out. After we looked at the House figure of \$5.9 billion in cuts, we reduced it very substantially in the subcommittee. The cuts were reduced further by an amendment which was sponsored by the leadership, the Dole-Daschle amendment, which the Senator from Minnesota voted for. Then the measure was vetoed and came back, and then it was approved after difficult negotiations with the White House. So that the net effect was, looking at the first cut of \$5.9 billion, we reinstated \$3 billion of those funds.

On this date of the record, I think that it was just too much to come back and say let us add in more money for these projects and these programs, important as they may be.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, is the Senate in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, the Senate stands in morning business. There is an order pending to go to the bill.

Mr. DORGAN. I ask unanimous consent to be allowed to speak for 20 minutes as in morning business.

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

U.S. TRADE DEFICIT

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, this week we received some additional news about our trade deficit in the United States. This news, for almost everyone who reads about our trade deficit, provokes one giant yawn, a turn of the page, and we hear nothing about it.

In contrast, we have, since the first part of this year, been very worried about the Federal budget deficit. We have had hour after hour and day after day of debate about what to do with the budget deficit. That is an enormously serious problem for this country. We must deal with it.

In fact, an hour or so ago, we passed a rescissions bill, cutting some \$16 billion in Federal spending as a first step. It is not nearly enough, but it is a pretty good first step before we get to the reconciliation bill to address the Federal budget deficit.

It is interesting that there is almost a conspiracy of silence in this country about the trade deficit. I wonder why? The trade deficit must be and will be some day repaid with a lower standard of living in the United States. That is a fact.

What is causing all of these problems with respect to trade? What does it result in for the American family? The circumstances, it seems to me, are these: We have in this country now record corporate profits. They have never been higher. The largest corporations in this country are making the highest profits they have ever made in history.

Wall Street is having a big old party—and God bless them, I think that is just wonderful. There are record highs on Wall Street. But while corporate profits reach new heights, and while the Wall Street crowd celebrates record highs, the question is, What about the family that sits down for dinner at home tonight and has to assess the family's economic circumstances?

The answer for the family is not record profits, and not new highs. The answer for 60 percent of the American families, when they sit down for dinner and talk about their circumstances, is that they are working harder and making less money. Mr. President, 60 percent of the American families now have less income than they had 20 years ago, when adjusted for inflation.

The other interesting thing is, in addition to the information produced about the trade deficit each month, there is another piece of information that is produced about wages. It gets almost no attention. Nearly every month, wages are falling. In other words, corporate profits are going up, stock prices are going up, investors are doing well. Wealth holders are cele-

brating, and folks out there working for a living are working for less wages. Why is that the case, and how does it relate to our trade deficit?

They are all part of the same circle. Corporate profits are at a record high. I think that is fine in some respects, except that if it comes at the expense of workers' incomes, there is a disconnection about what is important in this country. We now have what is called a global economy. What that means is American corporations and international corporations, for that matter, are told that it is just fine to go find a place to produce where you can produce dirt cheap, and hire folks for \$1 a day or a dime an hour, and sell that production back to Pittsburgh or Fargo or Denver or San Diego.

What we have are good manufacturing jobs moving out of this country at a wholesale pace, and those manufacturing jobs are now in Indonesia, in Malaysia, in China, and yes, even on the Maquiladora border of Mexico, where two or three new plants every day are approved for manufacturing products, many of which used to be manufactured in this country.

Corporations find, in some parts of the world, you can hire a 12-year-old to work 12 hours a day for 12 cents an hour and produce a product that is shipped back to this country. It means we have lost good jobs in this country that used to produce good income. That is the disconnection.

It seems to me that we ought to measure success in our economic system in this country by how an economy produces a better standard of living for all Americans—all Americans, not just corporate America, all Americans—especially those who work for a living.

We have folks who sit on the front porch and smoke pipes and watch the grass grow. They hold bonds or stocks, they get dividends or interest, and God bless them. Some of them earn millions every year doing that. Some of them earn millions and pay almost nothing in taxes. But the question is, What is the fortune of the person who does not have stocks or bonds, but who works every day? What about someone who works every day, makes a wage, and then finds that every month, their wages are eroding because profits are up but wages are down?

We need to change that kind of economic system. The sum total of everything we do in this Chamber ought to be to try to restore economic health to this country, sufficient so that every American family—every American family—finds its standard of living improving.

Mr. President, 50 years after the Second World War, during the first 25 years, virtually all American families found better circumstances, better opportunities, higher wages. The second 25 years, what have we seen? Trade deficits, with American corporations moving overseas, leaving this country, taking their jobs to other parts of the