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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, September 18, 1995, at 10:30 a.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1995

(Legislative day of Tuesday, September 5, 1995)

The Senate met at 9:15 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Almighty God, whose mercies are new every morning, we praise You for Your faithfulness. You are the same yesterday, today, and forever. Thank You for the strength, security, and serenity You provide in the midst of the strain and stress of heavy responsibilities and long hours. Refresh us physically and renew our minds. Give us light when our vision is dim, courage when we need to be bold, decisiveness when we are tempted to equivocate, and fresh hope when others are discouraged. Help us to listen to You so that our decisions are guided by how we perceive You would have us decide. Also make us more attentive listeners to each other so that we may be receptive to the deeper truth You give when there is honest, open debate. Give us unity in diversity and the oneness of a shared patriotism. Keep us from the grimness of taking ourselves too seriously and not taking You seriously enough. You hold us together when ideas, policies, and points of view would divide us. Help us to reach out to one another to affirm our oneness of our faith in You and our high calling to lead this Nation. So we commit this day to emulate Your faithfulness in the

work You have given us to do. In the name of our Lord. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. SANTORUM. Thank you, Mr. President. For the information of all Senators, the Senate will immediately resume the consideration of the welfare reform bill. As a reminder to all Senators, following 10 minutes of debate this morning there will be a rollcall vote on or in relationship to the Bingaman amendment, to be followed by a series of rollcall votes with 10 minutes of debate between each vote.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 99-498, appoints Dr. Robert N. Kelly, of Kansas, to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance for a 3-year term effective October 1, 1995.

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 4, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4) to restore the American family, reduce illegitimacy, control welfare spending, and reduce welfare dependence.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Dole modified amendment No. 2280, of a perfecting nature.

Subsequently, the amendment was further modified.

Daschle amendment No. 2672 (to amendment No. 2280), to provide for the establishment of a contingency fund for State welfare programs.

Faircloth amendment No. 2608 (to amendment No. 2280), to provide for an abstinence education program.

Simon amendment No. 2509 (to amendment No. 2280), to eliminate retroactive deeming requirements for those legal immigrants already in the United States.

Simon amendment No. 2681 (to amendment No. 2280), to provide grants for the establishment of community works progress programs.

Simon amendment No. 2468 (to amendment No. 2280), to provide grants for the establishment of community works progress programs.

Graham amendment No. 2568 (to amendment No. 2280), to set national work participation rate goals and to provide that the Secretary shall adjust the goals for individual States based on the amount of Federal funding the State receives for minor children in families in the State that have incomes below the poverty line.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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AMENDMENT NO. 2483

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 10 minutes of debate equally divided on the Bingaman amendment numbered 2483, to be followed by a vote on or in relation to the amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 2483, AS MODIFIED

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to send a modification of the amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SANTORUM. Reserving the right to object, we are still in the process of reviewing the modification. If the Senator can start the debate on the amendment, after we review the modification, we hope we will have no objection to it.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I will be glad to do that, Mr. President.

This amendment is a very simple, straightforward amendment. I really do not understand how anyone can object to it. It simply puts in law a requirement that the States receiving these block grants under the family assistance block grant program that is being established in this legislation—that they develop a plan, a plan for how they are to spend that money. The plan is very general in the requirements for what would be in the plan, but we basically say the same planning requirement that Senator DOLE had proposed for the work force training block grants, that same kind of planning should occur in the case of the family assistance programs. Once a State has its program in place, this amendment, in my view, would help both Federal and State taxpayers and officials evaluate the success of the State programs through State-established goals and benchmarks.

I do not really understand any credible argument against it. The proposal here is very consistent with the provisions specified in the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, which I know Senator ROTH had a great involvement in, to establish performance-based program management in the Federal Government. This continues to leave the decisionmaking, the substantive decisionmaking, to the States. But under the bill as it presently sits before us, there is virtually no planning required or encouraged or ensured. States need not do any long-range or strategic planning, nor do they need to establish any goals or benchmarks. There is no accountability to State or Federal taxpayers as to those goals actually being achieved.

We are talking, in this legislation, about block grants that add up to something over \$16.8 billion in Federal money each year. In my view, it is not unreasonable for us, as stewards of that Federal money, to at least ask for a written document that explains how it is to be spent.

So that is the essence of the amendment. I ask the manager of the bill if

he has had a chance to review the modification and if he sees a problem with it? If not, I ask unanimous consent, again, I be allowed to modify the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request?

Mr. SANTORUM. We have no objection to the request. In fact, as the Senator has modified his amendment, we would be willing to accept the amendment without a rollcall vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is so modified.

The amendment (No. 2483), as modified, is as follows:

On page 12, between lines 22 and 23, insert the following:

“(2) FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM STRATEGIC PLAN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A single comprehensive State Family Assistance Program Strategic Plan (hereafter referred to in this section as the ‘State Plan’) describing a 3-year strategic plan for the statewide program designed to meet the State goals and reach the State benchmarks for program activities of the family assistance program.

“(B) CONTENTS OF THE STATE PLAN.—The State plan shall include:

“(i) STATE GOALS.—A description of the goals of the 3-year plan, including outcome related goals of and benchmarks for program activities of the family assistance program.

“(ii) CURRENT YEAR PLAN.—A description of how the goals and benchmarks described in clause (i) will be achieved, or how progress toward the goals and benchmarks will be achieved, during the fiscal year in which the plan has been submitted.

“(iii) PERFORMANCE INDICATORS.—A description of performance indicators to be used in measuring or assessing the relevant output service levels and outcomes of relevant program activities.

“(iv) EXTERNAL FACTORS.—Information on those key factors external to the program and beyond the control of the State that could significantly affect the attainment of the goals and benchmarks.

“(v) EVALUATION MECHANISMS.—Information on a mechanism for conducting program evaluation, to be used to compare actual results with the goals and benchmarks and designate the results on a scale ranging from highly successful to failing to reach the goals and benchmarks of the program.

“(vi) MINIMUM PARTICIPATION RATES.—Information on how the minimum participation rates specified in section 404 will be satisfied.

“(vii) ESTIMATE OF EXPENDITURES.—An estimate of the total amount of State or local expenditures under the program for the fiscal year in which the plan is submitted.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I appreciate that willingness to accept the modified amendment. If that concludes debate on this issue, I suggest we go to a vote.

Mr. SANTORUM. I yield the remainder of my time.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I yield the remainder of my time as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back. If there be no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 2483), as modified, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2484

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 10

minutes of debate equally divided on Bingaman amendment No. 2484, to be followed by a vote on or in relation to the amendment.

The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, this amendment, amendment No. 2484, I gather, is at the desk. I will not ask it be read. Let me explain briefly what the amendment does.

The amendment simply provides that we will make our bill, this bill that Senator DOLE has proposed here, consistent with the House legislation on welfare reform in that we would provide \$100 million for each of fiscal years 1997 through the year 2000 to States to help them provide treatment for drug addiction and alcoholism.

Let me review the situation we have as I understand it and then invite any correction if the manager of the bill or anybody else would like to correct my impression.

This morning I put together a very simple chart which demonstrates my skill at calligraphy, but also, I think, makes the point I am trying to get at here. These, as I understand it, are proposed losses in Federal funds for drug and alcohol treatment, prevention and education, assuming this legislation is passed and assuming we go forward with other budget cuts that are contemplated.

Let me specify how I get the figures. As I understand it, the legislation we have here proposes to eliminate any funds for beneficiaries under SSI who are there by virtue of having a drug or alcohol abuse problem. So they are no longer eligible to receive SSI benefits. That is estimated to save the taxpayers \$300 million.

Payments to RMA's are also eliminated. These are the organizations, as I understand it, that provide services and do monitoring of the problems that alcoholics and drug abusers have throughout the country. That is \$100 million.

We are eliminating Medicaid eligibility for alcoholics and drug abusers. That is another \$100 million.

Then there are a series of cuts which I am informed have been voted by the Appropriations Committee, the Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Committee, on Wednesday. I assume those will be agreed to here when they come to the full Senate. Those amount to \$108 million cut in substance abuse block grant funding, \$100 million in drug treatment demonstration programs, \$29 million in drug abuse prevention demonstrations, and \$166 million in drug-free school money which will be eliminated. The alcohol and other health programs that Health and Human Services runs we are cutting by \$242 million.

So the total reduction in Federal support to States and to beneficiaries in this area of drug and alcohol treatment prevention and education is \$1.345 billion this next year.