

the Senate. He is a Senator who has always been on the lookout for ways to improve the efficiency of Government programs and reduce unnecessary costs. He is a leader in achieving results. Again, he is showing his ability to carefully analyze Federal programs and look for ways that we can improve them in terms of their efficiency. The savings of taxpayers' dollars that will result from the changes are quite obvious. This is another example which shows his diligence and his ability in this regard. So I commend him for his continued efforts to do what he is trying to do. I applaud that effort.

Having said that, I hope that if Senators do want to comment on the legislation and the proposed amendment, they will come to the floor to do so, and I will put in a quorum call to ascertain whether we do have Senators who want to speak further on this amendment at this time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. LEAHY. Mr. President, I understand there is nobody at the moment waiting to bring up any amendments so I ask unanimous consent that I be able to proceed as in morning business.

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

TRIBUTE TO CAL RIPKEN, JR.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, a couple weeks ago, like many others, I had the opportunity to be in Camden Yards to see a most extraordinary baseball game when Cal Ripken broke Lou Gehrig's record. I remember as a child thinking that the Gehrig record might never be reached, never be broken.

For me, the fact that I could be there with my son, Kevin, to watch that game, was really one of the highlights of this or any other year.

In watching, I could not help but think that Cal Ripken reflected the best of all people who get up and go to work every day in all fields. Whether it is the nurse who is there for the evening shift on a weekend, the person who shows up at the police department and goes to work to protect all of us, the teacher who is there teaching our children, the men and women of the Senate staff who are here—sometimes long after we Senators are able to go home—every day working for the best of our country, and on and on.

In this case I also think credit should be given to Peter Angelos and those who own the Orioles. Earlier this year when there was talk of replacement teams, they stood fast and said there would be no replacement team for the Orioles. Nothing would be done to cut into Cal Ripken's record. Indeed, they did not.

I also think that two things came as a result of that. One, it sent a signal to baseball that there are some owners and some players who care more for the game than care for the disgraceful dance that has gone on the past year, the dance of charges and counter-charges and strikes and lockouts that resulted in the cancellation last year of the World Series.

Second, by doing that, I believe it helped bring to an end the strike and it also gave baseball an evening of glory that it has not had for so long. It really did not become a question of whether the Orioles won or lost that night. It turned out they did win with Cal Ripken hitting a home run. It was a chance for people to unite around this country and say there are so many good things in baseball, and to go back to the basics of it. I hope Cal Ripken's accomplishment does help.

As Kevin and I sat there, we watched the different people—Joe DiMaggio sitting a few feet from us, the President, the Vice President, and others just to the other side of us, but what united us was not the well-known people but that baseball fans of all sort throughout that field and throughout the country could share in a magnificent achievement.

VERMONT'S FINEST, SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I recently had a chance to watch some of the best softball I have ever seen.

I saw the Vermonters, who make up my own team, play in the semifinals and then the finals and then win the softball championship.

I was out there Saturday in 95-degree heat, blistering sun, and I watched these young men and women from my office's team and I thought: That is real sportsmanship.

Then, the next day the final championship was fought between Vermont and New Hampshire.

In a league with 120 teams, the idea that the Senate softball championship this year came down to teams from New Hampshire and Vermont is ironic.

You have to understand we are both northern New England States, and the baseball season is rather short in northern New England. Our children grew up with hockey sticks and skates and skis—and have to squeeze their baseball in between those light May snow showers and the September autumn chill that stings the hands of all children who make contact with ball and bat.

But there we were.

The Thundering Herd, the talented granite-like team of Senator BOB SMITH's office had not been beaten all year. But neither had Vermont's Finest. Vermont's Finest, we say with no hint of modesty, is the name of our softball team.

The game went back and forth, only to be tied at the end of seven innings. Vermont scored two runs in the top of

the eighth and shut the Herd down to seal the victory and the championship.

We were led by Montpelier's Maggie Whitney, who played second base but should be turning double plays with Cal Ripken, Jr. St. Albans' Jamie Horan has a black eye and a 500-foot home run to show for the series. Beebe Plain's Mike Lawson won rookie of the year honors while representing the smallest town in Vermont with glove and lumber.

And the list of contributors is endless. Big Ed Pagano, our oak tree at first; Tom "Stonewall" Cosgrove, anchoring third on a nearly broken ankle—an ankle, incidentally, we heard snap as he hit home plate. He would not allow it to break until he scored that run. Paul "The Enforcer" Johnson, who with aging star J.P. Dowd provided key hitting and veteran leadership. Norwich's Regen O'Malley and UVM grad Kara Calaca-Mottola were anchors behind the plate. And our own tank commander, that stalwart marine, Bill Delaney, had more than a few key hits.

Rookies David East and Narrie Rome were vital to the team effort.

Vivian Cocca pitched as gutsy a series of games as we have seen in years.

Special honors have to go to our player-coach Brady Burgess, the solid, taciturn hunk of granite, a native of Lincoln, VT, who grew up dreaming of one day holding the Senate trophy aloft. I am sure this is a dream he had as a 3-year-old. He batted, fielded, and led his team to an impossible series of victories.

The loyal bench jockeys were Brattleboro's Jenny Backus, the purple-shorted Kevin "Scooter" McDonald, and the pride of St. Johnsbury, Zima-drinking Amy Rainone.

And the whole team was aided by their biggest fan and 5-year-old bat-boy, Walter Albee, who occasionally let his aging baby boomer, semi-yuppie father play.

We have to tip our caps to a few teams. First, our friendly rivals the Vermont Saps, from my good friend JIM JEFFORDS' office, who had what we call a "rebuilding year" this year but will no doubt be in the playoffs next year as they have been.

Second, our tough but honorable rivals from the MCCAIN-McCONNELL team. It seems one of us is always knocking off the other to get to the mountain top.

Third, our friends on Senator MIKULSKI's team. In the past 5 years, we have each won the championship twice and will be glad to be keeping it in the family.

Finally, to the Thundering Herd from New Hampshire—that the two New England teams made it to the top of the heap is a testament to traditional Yankee values of team play, strength, and hard work. I say to my friends from New Hampshire, they will be first in the Nation when Dixville Notch goes to the polls at midnight. You almost made it first in the Nation in softball,

and we expect to see you again next year.

Mr. President, we joke a little bit about this, but I think some of the most pleasant moments that I spent this year have been watching the softball team play—pleasant, because I know how hard the men and women who work for the Senate, who support all of us, do work, Republicans and Democrats alike. It is the men and women here who so make the Senate the place it is and can be. And they are the ones who make it possible for Americans to have hope in us.

There are 100 Senators. None of us would be able to do our job without people, ranging from those who guard the doors of this Chamber to those who report our proceedings, to those who handle the bills as they go through, and to all the others—those who make the electricity work, to those who help us write the legislation. I sometimes joke we are merely constitutional impediments to the staff. The truth of the matter is, we are, all of us, better—Republicans and Democrats alike—because of the selfless work of the men and women here in the Senate.

When I see them have a chance to play softball and enjoy themselves, I think how lucky we are to have them here. I have to tell all those in my office, I could not be more proud than I was watching them play in these championship games.

Mr. President, I see the distinguished Senator from Mississippi on the floor. When I started speaking there was nobody seeking recognition. He is the manager of this bill. Is he seeking recognition? If not, I have one more item to go to.

Mr. COCHRAN. No. Please proceed.

BIPARTISAN BUDGET SUMMIT NEEDED NOW

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, 2 weeks ago I called for a summit between Congressional leaders and the President to avoid a Government shutdown when the next fiscal year starts on October 1.

Since then, the House and Senate have passed a couple more appropriations bills and the administration has threatened more vetoes.

I was encouraged, however, by last week's meeting between congressional leaders and the President that we may yet avoid a budget train wreck which will force the Government to shutdown. The President and congressional leaders were right to get together to discuss a continuing resolution to fund the Government beyond October 1.

I hope last week's meeting signals a start to rational negotiations to solve the current budget impasse. We need to build on the positive signals sent by both sides to reach a compromise.

That is why I renew my call for a bipartisan summit now—before the budget crisis. We need to sit down now to hammer out our differences.

Resolving differences is the essence of governing. Let us get together, the

leaders of both parties, and work together to make our Government work.

I fear that few of our leaders have considered what happens if Congress and the President fail to reach an agreement and force the Government to shut down. Make no mistake about it—shutting down the Government will bring serious consequences.

First, shutting down the Government because Democrats and Republicans cannot agree on the budget will accomplish nothing except adding more scorn of our political system. This partisan fighting for just the sake of a headline is exactly what Vermonters believe is wrong with our present system. I believe this scorn will be fully justified if we do not work out our differences before forcing the Government to close.

Second, and more importantly, shutting down the Government will have serious effects on the lives of millions of Americans.

The most immediate effect of a shutdown will be the furloughing of Federal employees. The only exceptions from furloughs under a Government shutdown are Presidential appointees, uniformed military personnel, and Federal civilian employees rated "essential."

In 1990, the nonpartisan General Accounting Office estimated that 319,541 Federal Government employees out of 741,653 would be furloughed—about 43 percent of the Federal Government work force—during a Government shutdown.

Imagine the effect on those hundreds of thousands of employees and their families who are facing the prospect of an unknown period of unemployment. These are hard-working people who struggle like millions of other Americans to balance their checkbook each month.

We should not hold their households hostage to our inability to provide a workable Government budget for all Americans.

So let us keep in mind that when we contemplate a shutdown, we are talking about punishing hard-working families, not faceless bureaucrats, as some would lead us to believe.

What would be the effects if 43% of our Government workers are not allowed to go to work?

The GAO surveyed Government agencies in 1990 to find out the answer to that question. Each agency estimated that a Government shutdown would severely damage their effectiveness.

The Environmental Protection Agency, for example, estimated that "all environmental protection services would be shutdown." Do we really want to leave our environment at risk to score political points over a Government shutdown?

The Food and Drug Administration estimated under a shutdown "there would be no work on applications for new drugs and devices." Do we really want to put the benefits of new science and technology on hold to score political points over a Government shutdown?

The Social Security Administration estimated that under a shutdown "no new applications for Social Security or Medicare eligibility would be taken or inquiries answered."

Do we really want to make our senior citizens wait to score political points over a Government shutdown?

The Department of Justice estimated that a shutdown would delay trials and weaken its ability to supervise the Federal parolee caseload. Do we really want to slow down our criminal justice system to score political points over a Government shutdown?

The Department of Veterans Affairs estimated that under a shutdown "there would be approximately 37,000 unanswered telephone calls per day and approximately 5,000 cancelled interviews per day." Do our veterans really deserve this kind of treatment to score political points over a Government shutdown?

Perhaps the most lasting effect of a Government shutdown will be the wasted millions of taxpayer dollars.

At a time when the President and Congress are dedicated to eliminating unnecessary Government spending, pouring money down a Government shutdown rathole makes absolutely no sense. Shutting down the Government will make it harder to balance the budget—not easier—because lost revenue from a shutdown will simply add to our deficit.

The GAO estimated in its 1990 report that a 3-day closing would cost the Government millions of revenue dollars.

The Interior Department, for example, would lose \$30 million in revenue during a 3-day shutdown, and the Treasury Department would lose a whopping \$420 million. A longer shutdown would lose millions more. Do we really want to waste taxpayer money to score political points over a Government shutdown?

Closing the Government, even for a short time, carries serious consequences. It would rightfully heap scorn on our political system.

It would impair the effectiveness of necessary Government services, which many Americans depend on every day. And it would waste millions of taxpayer dollars.

Let us stop this fiscal insanity. Let us build on last week's bipartisan meeting and call a bipartisan budget summit.

It is time for our leaders to start acting responsibly. It is time for our leaders to start using some common sense. It is time for a bipartisan summit on the budget.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.