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Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, March 27, 1995)

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths—Proverbs 3:5-6.

Lord, what You desire from us You inspire in us. You use whom You choose; You provide for what You guide; You are working Your purposes out and know what You are about. We trust You with all our hearts. Infuse us with Your spirit and use us.

We praise You for the challenges of this day that will force us to depend more on You. Knowing that You never forget us, help us never to forget to ask for Your help. Set us free of any worries that would break our concentration on the work You have given us to do today. We entrust to Your care our loved ones and friends, those who are ill or confronting difficulties. And Lord, help us to be sensitive to the needs of people with whom we work today. Let us take no one for granted assuming that a polished exterior is the result of a peaceful interior. So enable us to be to others what You have been to us. Help us to live this day as if it were the only day we had left. So if there is any kindness we can show, and affirmation we can give, any care we can impart, Lord, help us to express it today. May we be a boost and not a burden; a source of courage and not of cynicism. Lord, this is the day You have made and we plan to rejoice and be glad in it. In Your holy name.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, this morning the leader time has been reserved and there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 10 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each, with the exception of the following: Senators DOMENICI and BIDEN, 5 minutes each, Senator COVERDELL for up to 15 minutes, and Senator THOMAS for up to 35 minutes.

At the hour of 10 a.m., the Senate will begin consideration of S. 219, the moratorium bill. Amendments are expected to the bill. Therefore, Senators should be aware that rollcall votes are possible throughout today's session. Also, the Senate will stand in recess between the hours of 12:30 and 2:15 for the weekly party luncheons to occur.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEWINE). Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 10 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Senator from New Mexico [Mr. DOMENICI] is recognized to speak for up to 5 minutes.

Mr. DOMENICI. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. DOMENICI and Mr. WELLSTONE pertaining to the introduction of S. 632 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

THE STATE OF AMERICA'S CHILDREN

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, today, the Children's Defense Fund, a

wonderful organization—and thank God there is such an organization with a strong voice for children—has issued a report, "The State of America's Children."

I would, for my State of Minnesota, like to release some statistics from this report on the floor of the Senate and then I would like to talk about what these statistics mean in personal terms for my State and for the politics of the country for this Congress.

Minnesota's children at risk—this report was issued today by the Children's Defense Fund: 60,615 children lacked health insurance in the years 1989 to 1991—over 60,000 children lacking health insurance; 27,462 reported cases of child abuse and neglect, 1992—27,462 reported cases; 116 young men died by violence, 1991; 48 children were killed by guns, 1992.

Only 71.4 percent of 2-year-olds were fully immunized, 1990—30 percent of children not fully immunized. This is my State of Minnesota and, in my humble opinion, that is the greatest State in the country; 35 percent of 4th grade public school students lacked basic reading proficiency, 1992.

Those are Minnesota's children at risk.

Mr. President, on the back of this report released today by the Children's Defense Fund, there are the following statistics, which I have read on the floor of the Senate before, but this is a new report, new data:

Every day in America, three children die from child abuse.

Every day in America, 15 children die from guns.

Every day in America, 27 children—a classroomful—die from poverty.

Every day in America, 95 babies die before their first birthday.

Every day in America, 564 babies are born to women who had late or no prenatal care.

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



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Every day in America, 788 babies are born at low birthweight, less than 5 pounds 8 ounces.

Every day in America, 1,340 teenagers give birth.

Every day in America, 2,217 teenagers drop out of school—each day.

Every day in America, 2,350 children are in adult jails.

Every day in America, 2,699 infants are born into poverty.

Every day in America, 3,356 babies are born to unmarried women.

Every day in America, 8,189 children are reported abused or neglected.

Every day in America, 100,000 children are homeless.

Every day in America 135,000 children bring guns to school.

Every day in America, 1.2 million latchkey children come home to a house in which there is a gun.

Mr. President, I would like to, from this Children's Defense Fund report that came out today on the state of America's children, talk about what this means with Minnesota children at risk.

A Nation that would rather send someone else's child to prison for \$15,496 a year, or to an orphanage for over \$36,000 a year, then invest in \$300,000 worth of immunization and \$100,000 worth of prenatal care to give a child a healthy start, \$1,800 to give that child a summer job to learn a work ethic, lacks both family values and common and economic sense.

Mr. President, let me just add that as long as we are going to be talking about a budget deficit and addressing that budget deficit, I think it is time that we also address a spiritual deficit in our Nation. I have brought an amendment to the floor of the U.S. Senate four times which has been defeated. I will bring it back on the floor this week, especially with the rescissions bill over here.

I commend Senator HATFIELD, and others, for their fine work in at least restoring some of the cuts for some programs that are so important. I know that I met with citizens back in Minnesota about cuts to the Low Energy Assistance Program. In my State of Minnesota, over 100,000 households, 300,000 individuals, I say to my colleagues, 30 percent elderly, members of household, 40 percent child, over 50 percent someone working; this was a grant of about \$350 that enabled somebody to get over a tough time, with 40 percent using it only 1 year. People were terrified. I will thank Senator HATFIELD and others for not zeroing out that program.

As I look at these cuts that are before us, Mr. President, I would like to raise some questions not about the budget deficit but about the spiritual deficit. Minnesota children at risk. I will have this amendment on the floor and I will ask one more time for my colleagues to go on record that we will not pass any legislation, take any action that would increase the number of hungry or homeless children in America. That amendment has failed in four separate votes, though the support for

the amendment is going up; the last time it received 47 votes.

Mr. President, I want to ask the following question: Who decides that we are going to cut child nutrition programs but not subsidies for oil companies? Who decides that we are going to cut the Headstart Program but not subsidies for insurance companies? Who decides that we are going to cut child care programs but not tobacco company subsidies? Who decides, Mr. President, that we are going to cut educational programs for children, but not military contractors?

Mr. President, some people are very generous with the suffering of others. And it is time that we understand that we should not be making budget cuts based on the path of least political resistance, making cuts that affect citizens with the least amount of clout that are not the heavy hitters and do not have the lobbyists.

There needs to be a standard of fairness. I will insist on that during this debate. Mr. President, if you will allow me 15 seconds for a conclusion, over and over again on the floor of the U.S. Senate, I will, if you will, shout it from the mountain top. There will not be any real national security for our Nation until we invest in the health and the skills and the intellect and the character of our children. That is what this debate is about.

I thank the Chair and I thank my colleagues for their generosity and graciousness.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia is recognized to speak for up to 15 minutes.

OUR NATION'S STRIKING DILEMMA

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I want to begin by thanking the members of the bipartisan commission that concluded its work last year—the entitlement commission and the Congressional Budget Office and the Senate Budget Committee, and others, who have contributed to my purpose and reason for speaking to the Senate this morning.

In perusing their work—and we do get inundated with information in this Capital City—but as I was going through the material they had provided, I suddenly fell upon a page for which this chart is a near replica. It has been improved and modified with new information. But this single page riveted my attention, and I think if known, it would command the attention of every American, every American family, and every American business. It poses for our Nation a striking dilemma.

Mr. President, what it points to is this fact and this condition: Within 10 years—maybe 8, maybe 12—the entirety of all U.S. revenues—all U.S. revenues—are consumed but by five outlays, five expenditures. You just have to think for a moment of the thousands and thousands of Federal expenditures that we accrue each year.

When you start saying that, within a decade, I suppose most everybody within the sound of my voice, with God's permission, expects to be here in 10 years. In 10 years, all of our Government's revenues are consumed by just five expenditures.

Mr. President, those expenditures are Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Federal retirement, and the interest on the United States of America's debt. Those five things will consume every dime the country has.

This chart shows those five expenditures and U.S. revenues meeting in the year 2006, but 10 years away. I believe it will occur sooner than that.

But, in any event, on or about this date, we are confronted with this calamity. We were just listening to the Senator from Minnesota talk about a program for children in which he has great interest. The point is that if we allow this to happen to ourselves, within 10 years, anything the U.S. Government wanted to do either could not be done because there would be no revenue to do it, or we would have to borrow it. In short, we would be saying that to run the U.S. Government, the Defense Department, to build a road, a canal, to widen a port, to take care of the program for children mentioned by the Senator from Minnesota, and the School Lunch Program which has been debated in the House, it would either have to be discontinued, or we would have to borrow to do it. Think of it—borrow to run the entirety of the U.S. Government, or not do it, because all the money will have been consumed but by five outlays.

Mr. President, from time to time, in America's history, Americans have been called upon to do extraordinary things—those that founded the Nation, those that fought to keep it a union, the Americans that went to Europe in the name of freedom in 1918, and again in 1940. Mr. President, my view is that no generation of Americans—none—will have ever been called upon to do more than the current generation of Americans as they face this staggering crisis.

I repeat that: I do not believe there is any generation of Americans other than those living today that will have been asked to do more in the name of saving this Union.

Mr. President, this is not a message of gloom. Mr. President, this is a message of challenge. Challenge. I have never known a generation of Americans that would flinch or cower from facing a crisis that had to do with the saving of the Union.

First, Americans have to know about this problem, which I do not believe they do. I think Americans understand that we have difficulties and problems. But they do not know that the problem is at their back door. They have heard policymakers for years talk about the growing crisis of our fiscal affairs.

What they do not realize is that there is not another generation to pass