

So the Finance Committee needs a lot of work. But Democrats are ready to do the work, and the Finance Committee bill does provide us with a mechanism for bringing welfare to the floor of the Senate for debate.

If Republicans have problems with their own bill, they should offer amendments to improve it. That is what Democrats intend to do.

In fact, we will offer an alternative plan that is truly about work.

And so today I urge the majority leader to bring the welfare bill to the floor.

It is time the Senate fulfills its obligation to give the American people what they want and deserve: True welfare reform that will move people off welfare and into work, not by punishing children, but by providing people access to the real means to become self-sufficient.

WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, as of the close of business yesterday, Thursday, June 29, the Federal debt stood at \$4,898,835,701,662.79. On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,596.06 as his or her share of that debt.

REGULATORY REFORM ACT

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, during consideration of S. 343, the Regulatory Reform Act, I intended to offer an amendment to waive administrative and civil penalties for local governments when Federal water pollution control compliance plans are in effect.

I believe this amendment is a simple issue of fairness to local governments and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment. I ask unanimous consent that the text of my amendment and the text of my "Dear Colleague" letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

AMENDMENT No. —

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . WAIVER OF PENALTIES WHEN FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT COMPLIANCE PLANS ARE IN EFFECT.

Section 309 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1319) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(h) WAIVER OF PENALTIES WHEN COMPLIANCE PLANS ARE IN EFFECT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, no civil or administrative penalty may be imposed under this Act against a unit of local government for a violation of a provision of this Act (including a violation of a condition of a permit issued under this Act)—

"(A) if the unit of local government has entered into an agreement with the Administrator (or the Secretary of the Army, in the case of a violation of section 404) to carry out a compliance plan with respect to a prior

violation of the provision by the unit of local government; and

"(B) during the period—

"(i) beginning on the date on which the unit of local government and the Administrator (or the Secretary of the Army, in the case of a violation of section 404) enter into the agreement; and

"(ii) ending on the date on which the unit of local government is required to be in compliance with the provision under the plan.

"(2) REQUIREMENT OF GOOD FAITH.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply during any period in which the Administrator (or the Secretary of the Army, in the case of a violation of section 404) determines that the unit of local government is not carrying out the compliance plan in good faith.

"(3) OTHER ENFORCEMENT.—A waiver of penalties provided under paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to a violation of any provision of this Act other than the provision that is the subject of the agreement described in paragraph (1)(A)."

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, June 27, 1995.

DEAR COLLEAGUE: When the Senate begins consideration of S. 343, the Regulatory Reform Bill, I intend to offer an amendment to lift the unfair burden of excessive civil penalties from the backs of local governments that are working in good faith with the Clean Water Act.

Under current law, civil penalties begin to accumulate the moment a local government violates the Clean Water Act. Once this happens, the law requires that the local government present a Municipal Compliance plan for approval by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), or the Secretary of the Army in cases of Section 404 violations. However, even after a compliance plan has been approved, penalties continue to accumulate. In effect, existing law actually punishes local governments while they are trying to comply with the law.

Under my amendment, local governments would stop accumulating civil and administrative penalties once a Municipal Compliance Plan has been negotiated and the locality is acting in good faith to carry out the plan. Further, my amendment would act as an incentive to encourage governments to move quickly to achieve compliance with the Clean Water Act.

This amendment is a simple issue of fairness. Local governments must operate with a limited pool of resources. Localities should not have to devote their tax revenue to penalties, while having to comply with the law. Rather, by discontinuing burdensome penalties, local governments can better concentrate their resources to meet the intent of the law in protecting our water resources from pollution.

I hope you will join me in supporting this commonsense amendment for our towns and cities. If you have any questions or wish to cosponsor this amendment, please feel free to have a member of your staff contact Quinn Mast of my staff at 4-5842.

Sincerely,

LARRY PRESSLER,

U.S. Senator.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I see no other Senator seeking recognition. I yield the floor, and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

THE RESCISSIONS BILL

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I understand we have morning business until 10:30, at which time I will ask consent that we turn to H.R. 1944, the rescissions bill, and that no amendments be in order; there be 10 minutes for debate to be equally divided in the usual form; and that following the conclusion or yielding back of time, the bill be advanced to third reading and passed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

I will make that request at 10:30. I hope we can have the cooperation of our colleagues. This is something the White House wants. We have a statement from the administration. This contains the money for the Oklahoma City disaster. It contains money for the earthquakes in California. And if my colleagues on the other side do not want to pass it, that is up to them.

We have had a lot of negotiation on the rescissions package. The President vetoed it, and we went back and tried to accommodate some of the President's concerns. Now I am advised at this last moment there may be some other political efforts made to delay the bill or frustrate the will of the majority.

I hope that at 10:30 sharp we can take up the bill under the previous considerations.

Mr. WELLSTONE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I know we are waiting until the hour of 10:30, but just for the public record, I now have a copy of this bill. This is the first time I have seen this bill.

I voted for the \$16 billion in cuts when it was on the Senate side, but I want to make it crystal clear that there have now been additional cuts, for example, in low-income energy assistance. I am from a cold weather State. I want to talk about that program. I represent people in my State. Just because people are low income does not mean they do not have representation.

Just now I received a copy of this bill. There was a program that we had that was an important program—the majority leader actually helped me on this before—which provided counseling to elderly people so they do not get ripped off on some of the supplemental health care coverage to Medicare. That came out in the conference committee.

So, Mr. President, there is also a range of important programs here for dislocated people, workers with summer youth employment. I just received this bill—just received it. I have not even had a chance to look at it. I certainly would oppose any kind of a unanimous-consent agreement that said we would have a vote at a time certain.

I want to have an opportunity to offer amendments. I want to have an opportunity to talk about this. We are talking about people's lives, and there are some serious cuts in here that affect some of the most vulnerable citizens.

I would start, coming from a cold weather State, talking about the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, many of whom are elderly, many of whom are disabled—we are a cold weather State—many of whom depend upon this grant. This was eliminated on the House side. We restored the funding on the Senate side, and now there have been additional cuts of over \$300 million in this program—\$330 million in cuts in energy assistance for some of the most vulnerable citizens.

So I think we need to have an opportunity to offer amendments, an opportunity to debate and certainly an opportunity to even go through this bill. I was not elected from Minnesota to come here and just have things rammed through. This is the first time I have had a copy of this bill—the first time. Significant changes have been made. I am a legislator. We should have an opportunity to evaluate this, and we should have a debate on what is in this.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I understand the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is the same as in the vetoed bill. There has not been any change in that. I do not know where the \$400 million figure came from.

I want to include in the RECORD at this point a statement of administration policy, this is the Clinton administration policy, that supports H.R. 1944 as it passed the House:

H.R. 1944 provides an important balance between deficit reduction and providing funds to meet emergency needs. This legislation provides essential funding for FEMA Disaster Relief, for the Federal response to the bombing in Oklahoma City, for increased anti-terrorism efforts, and for providing debt relief to Jordan in order to contribute to further progress toward a Middle East peace settlement. H.R. 1944 reduces Federal spending by \$9 billion.

I think the administration statement is in accord with the thinking of most individuals.

This matter did pass the House last night. As I understand it, there has been change in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program since the bill passed the Senate.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Actually it is true. The bill the President vetoed is the same. Many of us voted against that. What we passed out of the Senate restored the \$1.3 billion for low-income energy assistance. Now we have gone back to over \$300 million of cuts. That is a very serious issue for people in my State. I just received a copy of this. Let us take some time and evaluate what is in this rescissions bill.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, 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. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAMS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I have been discussing H.R. 1944 with the Democratic leader, Senator DASCHLE. I understand now I have consent to turn to the consideration of H.R. 1944.

Mr. DASCHLE. That is correct.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE, FOR ANTITERRORISM INITIATIVES, FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE RECOVERY FROM THE TRAGEDY THAT OCCURRED AT OKLAHOMA CITY, AND RESCISSIONS ACT, 1995

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we turn to consideration of H.R. 1944.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 1944, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1944) making emergency supplemental appropriations for additional disaster assistance, for antiterrorism initiatives, for assistance in the recovery of the tragedy that occurred in Oklahoma City, and making rescissions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I also understand we will not be able to get unanimous consent that there be no amendments to the bill, so I will not make that request.

I am advised that the managers are here. We would like to proceed as quickly as possible. If there are amendments we hope the amendments will be offered with very little debate. Certainly people have a right to offer amendments. We discourage amendments.

I hope that those who want this bill passed—which will save \$9.2 billion and is supported by President Clinton—will join together in defeating any amendments or tabling any amendments that may be offered.

I know there are a number of absent Senators on each side of the aisle. I must say they were never told there would be no votes today, so they left at their own risk.

In any event, I think we are prepared to proceed on the bill.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, we are prepared to proceed. While I know there are absent Senators on both sides, I think it is important we try to finish the business on this particular legislation.

The ranking member has done an outstanding job of bringing the Senate

to this point, and they deserve our support for the work they have done. We hope in the not-too-distant future today we can accomplish our task and pass this legislation. I yield the floor.

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I would like the attention of the Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. President, before I engage in an opening statement, I would like to make one observation and describe a very unique situation we are in.

In this rescissions package, we have, in effect, made cuts at current 1995 appropriations counts that represents about \$3 billion in outlays in the out-years.

I want to make very clear to the Senator from Minnesota and others who may be interested in this—knowing of his concern for nonmilitary discretionary programs that involve people, children, poor people, needy low-income energy assistance, other such programs—if we cannot put this bill through before we adjourn at this time, let me indicate the time program and consequences.

Anything that stalls this at this time to move on this and act upon this, puts the Senate into July 10 returning. On that date, and the day following, the Appropriations Committee will be, then, in a process of making allocations under the 602(b) of the Budget Act for 1996 accounts.

If we cannot make that \$3 billion outlay action now, that means we are going to have to add that to the 1996 allocations in order to stay within the budget resolution.

What any Senator would be doing would be taking the responsibility of cutting further, deeper, into those programs he or she may be interested in, by holding up this action today, because we are not going to be able to delay the 1996 action any longer.

The House has already passed four of six out of their committee. If we cannot absorb in the 1995 period that \$3 billion outlay, we will be absorbing it in the 1996. Any Senator would be compounding the very thing they are trying to defend. The Senator is creating a higher cut in 1996. We cannot escape that.

Let me say, we also lost the battle of cutting out the *Seawolf* or the B-2 bomber or something and taking that money and putting it into programs of nonmilitary. We lost that battle. We are precluded in the appropriations in our 602(b) allocations of transferring money from defense discretionary to nondefense discretionary.

Do not be misled with the idea that somehow we will face the battle on the *Seawolf* or the B-2, and we will reduce those commitments in the defense appropriation discretionary programs and be able to use them for low-income energy assistance or other welfare or people's need programs. That battle we have lost, much to my chagrin.

I want to just add a word of caution. The very things that the Senator may feel he would defend in the 1995 rescission, the Senator will compound it in