

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CHAFEE. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I might proceed for 5 minutes as in morning business.

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

TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. HOCKEY TEAM

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I will take a moment to pay tribute to the U.S. hockey team. As many of my colleagues may know, Team USA won the World Cup of Hockey last Saturday night with a decisive 5-2 victory over Canada.

This was an extraordinary tournament. All the traditional hockey powers—countries such as Canada, Russia, and Sweden—sent their very best players to this competition. Unlike the Olympics, in which the teams have been made up principally of amateur players, these players were strictly professionals. It was the best in the world against the best in the world.

At the outset, the Americans were the underdogs. In the end, however, not only did we win, but we dominated play throughout the tournament.

As an American, I was thrilled to read about Team USA's outstanding performance. But I am particularly proud of this team's accomplishments as a Rhode Islander.

The team was assembled by Lou Lamoriello—a native of Rhode Island and a former head coach of the Providence College hockey team. Lou is now the president and general manager of the New Jersey Devils.

The team's assistant general manager was Jack Ferreira, a graduate of LaSalle Academy in Providence, and a former assistant coach for Brown University.

The team was coached by Ron Wilson. He grew up in East Providence and played hockey for Providence College. He's now the head coach of the Anaheim Mighty Ducks.

Defenseman Mathieu Schneider is a graduate of Mount Saint Charles High School in Woonsocket, RI.

The athletic trainer, Peter Demers, a long-time trainer for the Los Angeles Kings, is originally from Pawtucket.

To top it off, the team trained at Providence College's Schneider Arena.

So you can see that this team had a distinct Rhode Island flavor to it. And so, I join with all Rhode Islanders and Americans in congratulating the U.S. hockey team for their marvelous achievement.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. 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 Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, has the Pastore rule expired?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It has not expired.

Mr. BYRD. It has not? Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for not to exceed 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no objection, the Senator is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Chair.

SENATOR DAVID PRYOR

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, Senator DAVID PRYOR is retiring from the Senate at the end of this session after giving 18 years of exceptional service to the people of Arkansas and to the Nation. His quiet, thoughtful manner, his unfailing good humor, his wise counsel, and his natural leadership will be missed here.

I think of that quotation from Edmund Burke, the great Irish statesman, orator, and writer, who observed in his "Reflections on the Revolution in France":

Because half a dozen grasshoppers under a fern make the field ring with their importunate chink, whilst thousands of great cattle, reposed beneath the shadow of the British oak, chew the cud and are silent, pray do not imagine that those who make the noise are the only inhabitants of the field . . .

The Congress is an open field for serenading grasshoppers, who make a lot of noise unmatched by significant accomplishment. Senator PRYOR, on the other hand, shuns the limelight of the Senate stage to devote his energies to quietly and tenaciously improving living conditions for American citizens, particularly the elderly.

Senator PRYOR began his political career in Arkansas investigating abuses in nursing homes, even working undercover as an orderly to gather firsthand evidence. As the Chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging for 6 years, Senator PRYOR has led the crusade to protect America's elderly and to oversee Medicare. On the health care front, Senator PRYOR labored valiantly to craft a workable solution to the massive health care reform effort in the last Congress.

His concern for the elderly has led Senator PRYOR to become an expert on, and a vocal critic of, the prices pharmaceutical companies charge for prescription drugs. And he has matched his criticism with action. Senator PRYOR was instrumental in requiring drug companies to charge the same prices to state-federal Medicaid programs for the poor as they do to other bulk-drug purchasers.

During this Congress, Senator PRYOR has led a fight to close a loophole in

the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade legislation that creates a windfall for name-brand pharmaceutical companies by protecting them from generic competition under GATT. This loophole, a creation of error rather than of intent, means that consumers, and especially pensioners dependent on prescriptions that eat up a large percentage of their fixed incomes, are paying more for their prescriptions than otherwise would have been the case. I am proud to have supported Senator PRYOR's tenacious and repeated efforts to remedy this problem. Although unsuccessful to date, Senator PRYOR's leadership on this important issue merits commendation.

On the Finance Committee, Senator PRYOR has consistently worked to improve the notoriously painful interactions between the IRS and individual taxpayers. On the Agriculture Committee, he has championed issues important to the hardworking farmers laboring in the cotton and rice fields of Arkansas. This search for a balm to smooth the rough edges of life, to offer oil to calm the troubled waters of public exchange, is characteristic of the gentle Senator from Arkansas.

In the behind-the-scenes life of the Senate, Senator PRYOR has worked to encourage civility and order. He has provided leadership as the Secretary of the Democratic Conference in the 102nd and 103rd Congresses. He built the consensus that over a decade ago introduced family-friendly procedural changes, some of which are still in effect today, that restored some discipline to the way this body conducts its business. The time limits on votes and the recess schedule that we still attempt to follow are the lasting fruits of his labors.

Senator PRYOR has not limited his concern for family time to Senators alone. He cast a critical vote to override President Bush's veto of the Family and Medical Leave Act in the 102nd Congress, helping to provide a safety net for family members to look after a newborn, or a sick or dying relative, without risking the loss of their job.

Another way in which Senator PRYOR has enriched the life of the Senate and demonstrated his sincere devotion to young people is his continuing consideration for the Senate pages. These young people, whom we see every day on the floor and busily running our errands throughout the Capitol complex, have come from around the Nation to learn from us, as well as to assist us. Whether from large cities or rural areas, few, if any, of these young people are ever fully prepared for the demands and challenges of life on Capitol Hill, as many of us are not, until they have plunged into the midst of it. Having been a page himself, Senator PRYOR knows firsthand that sometimes the learning part of this heady experience can be swamped under the working part.

But he makes the time and takes the time to talk with the pages—and that

is quite a learning experience, for those of us who take the time to talk with them; I have often done that over the years—and to share with them his insight and his wisdom, to decipher for them the importance of what might be occurring on the floor, and to listen to their questions and their concerns.

His interest in them is genuine, and it has made him a favorite of generations of pages. This is yet another facet of the quiet but extraordinary legacy of courtesy and accomplishment bequeathed to the Senate and to the Nation by Senator PRYOR.

Mr. President, I thank Senator PRYOR for his service to the Senate and to the Nation. He has not trumpeted his ambitions, not made big noises like half a dozen grasshoppers under a fern, but has led by example, earning the genuine esteem and respect of his colleagues and the admiration of so many others whose lives he has touched. I wish him good health and happiness in his retirement. As he listens to the crickets chirping in the Arkansas dusk, raising their noisy chorus to the rising Arkansas moon, I hope that he remembers us as fondly as we will remember him.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. PRESSLER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. PRESSLER] is recognized.

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I want to commend our former majority leader on his great remarks about DAVID PRYOR. His remarks have inspired me to say a few words about DAVID. I have been trying to say a few words about each retiring Senator. But DAVID PRYOR has been a friend of mine. In fact, I have been down to Arkansas to his charitable event that he has to raise money in Texarkana several times. I have also been down to Little Rock to speak at college events. I feel that I have gotten to know DAVID and Barbara Pryor quite well.

He is a legendary figure in this body because he is, I think, one of the President's best friends, and DAVID PRYOR can go straight to the President with certain information or projects. That is an unusual responsibility for a Senator to have.

But he is sort of a legendary U.S. Senator in that he came here as a page, I believe. He was in the House of Representatives when I was over in the House. I have followed his career for a number of years with great admiration.

I shall miss DAVID PRYOR a great deal. He has done a lot of legislation. I serve with him on the Senate Finance Committee. I serve with him on the Senate Committee on Aging. But more than that, he is my friend. I shall miss DAVID PRYOR. We all come and go. DAVID PRYOR is leaving a little early, in my opinion, and I shall miss him very much. I join in those wonderful remarks paying tribute to Senator DAVID PRYOR of Arkansas.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SNOWE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. PRESSLER. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

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

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

Mr. PRESSLER. Madam President, I objected regarding the Pipeline Safety Act, which I am trying very hard to pass. I will not object if the Senator desires to discuss issues unrelated.

Mr. KENNEDY. I would like to discuss an unrelated matter. If it becomes apparent that you can move ahead in terms of final disposition, I will withhold further comments. If I could, I ask unanimous consent to proceed with what I expect to be 12 or 15 minutes on the issue of education.

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

EDUCATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, on Tuesday, the Republicans announced, with great fanfare, an education amendment that is a day late and \$800 million short. It restores \$2.3 billion of \$3.1 billion necessary to meet the President's request for fiscal year 1997. But this amendment is hardly motivated by concern for the students of America. It is an election-eve conversion, and the American people should not be fooled.

As costs, student enrollments and college debts soar, the Republicans are offering "education lite." The increase they offer falls well short of the funding needed just to keep pace with inflation and enrollment increases.

Senator LOTT himself admitted the amendment was designed to meet the political needs of the Republican Party, not the educational needs of American students. Senator LOTT said on Tuesday, "We can either get our brains beat out politically, or we can get in there and mix it up with them, and that's what we are going to do."

Republicans are running scared from the fact that the American people support education. Their change of heart is cynical and hypocritical, and it will not last past the November election.

What TRENT LOTT gives with one hand, NEWT GINGRICH is already planning to take away with the other. The Republican leaders in the House are telling their rank and file not to get excited because they can rescind the money later. House Republican conference member JOHN BOEHNER said, in appropriations—and BOB LIVINGSTONE agreed—that "we can always have a rescissions bill in January."

Senator LOTT and the Republicans are fleeing from their anti-education record, but they better not look back, because if they do, the sight of all their cuts in education might turn them into pillars of salt.

When the Dole-Gingrich Republican leadership took over in 1995, their education agenda was stark and severe: abolish the Department of Education and slash Federal support for schools and college students.

From January 1995 to the present, Republicans have proposed education cuts every chance they have had: on rescission bills, on budget resolutions, on appropriations bills and continuing resolutions. When Democrats refused to let these devastating cuts pass, Republicans shut down the Government because they could not get their way.

With the help of students and parents across the country, we turned back the worst of these anti-education funding measures for fiscal year 1996.

Republicans did not learn. In this year's budget resolution, they again propose to slash education, this time by 20 percent over the next 6 years.

The record of the past 2 years is clear. It is clear that Republicans are no friends of education, and it is equally clear that the American people do not want education cut. The current election-eve Republican "education lite" amendment has no credibility. It is written in disappearing ink. NEWT GINGRICH, Bob Dole, and their allies have an irresistible impulse to slash education to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy. And Democrats will not let that happen.

Madam President, this chart illustrates clearly exactly where we are on the issue of education. The black line going back to 1995 is President Clinton's request. That line represents inflation plus expanded enrollment. We have expanded enrollment in the elementary and secondary schools, going up to 52 million or 53 million, and expanded enrollment as well in higher education. This particular line reflects the increase that is necessary to deal with the problems of inflation, expanded student population in the K-12 well as in higher education.

This line here reflects what was actually the fiscal year 1995 level of funding in terms of constant dollars. This \$600 million loss represents the figure that was effectively agreed to after the proposal by the Republicans of \$1.7 billion in rescissions in 1995. Their proposal was to cut \$1.7 billion. We were able to resist that, and the final figure that was set was \$600 million in rescissions. These were moneys already going out to schools all across the country, K-12—also available, some of the funding, in terms of higher education appropriated in previous years. Their proposal reduced this by \$1.7 billion.

We see that this \$3.9 billion cut represents the House appropriations in 1995. The continuing resolution brought it back to \$3.1 billion. Finally, just before the Government shutdown