

will have an overwhelming vote in both Houses—well, the House already passed it by an overwhelming vote. I think in the Senate we will, as well. I urge colleagues to be patient and not try to pass everything on their legislative agenda in the next two days.

Let us work together and finish the unfinished appropriations bills, the continuing resolution, do it responsibly. Again, I thank my colleague from Oregon and my colleague from Arizona for their willingness to be at least flexible enough for some of us who had concerns about their amendments. Perhaps we can get that resolved.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 5 additional minutes.

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

Mr. WYDEN. I want to tell the Senator from Oklahoma that we very much appreciate his involvement in this. I only asked for 5 additional minutes because I want to go back to negotiating with him and his staff on it. As you know, Senator KENNEDY has done yeoman work on this and has been very involved in this as well. I think we are going to have good input and involvement on both sides of the aisle if we try to finish it up.

I think it is important that the Senate and the country understand that what we are talking about is ensuring that straightforward, honest conversation could take place between doctors, nurses, chiropractors, therapists, and their patients. That is all we are talking about here—information, and those honest, straightforward discussions. Right now, because of these gag clauses, that kind of communication so often can't take place. That is not right. That is what we are going to try to change.

Mr. President, I thank the Senate for the additional time. I yield the floor.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, 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. NICKLES. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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 VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, September 26, the debt stood at \$5,198,325,061,997.28.

One year ago, September 26, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,953,251,000,000.

Five years ago, September 26, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,638,501,000,000.

Ten years ago, September 26, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,109,293,000,000. This reflects an increase of more than \$3 trillion

(\$3,089,032,061,997.28) during the 10 years from 1986 to 1996.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD GREENE

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, last week the Senate took a few moments to pass a resolution honoring the service of Sergeant-at-Arms Howard Greene, who is leaving after a 28 year career with this body. I was away from the Senate floor during the discussion of that resolution, but I did not want this Congress to adjourn without having had the opportunity to share my appreciation for Howard Greene's service to the Senate, and for his personal friendship during my tenure here.

Mr. President, much of the important work which we do here in the Senate could not be accomplished without the dedication of the professional staff members who serve the Senate, and Howard Greene has been the consummate professional. His love for the Senate; his keen understanding of its workings and its constitutional role; his discretion and his tact, have gone hand-in-hand with Howard Greene's fundamental decency and sense of public service to make him one of the Senate's greatest assets for many, many years. I doubt that there is a single Member of this body who has not benefited from Howard's counsel, his industry, his knowledge of the Senate, or his friendship. I know that I have gained a great deal from each.

I am especially proud that Howard is a fellow Delawarean, and have always believed that his sense of public service embodies the bipartisan tradition that is the hallmark of our State. As Sergeant-at-Arms, or Secretary to the majority, or in any of the roles he has undertaken during his long career here, Howard has been a source of wisdom and assistance, counsel and comfort to all Senators, Republican and Democrat alike. He has been a fundamental believer in the idea that once the election is over, we are all public servants, and he has worked tirelessly to enable us to fulfill the trust that the people of our States have placed in us.

Mr. President, the halls of Congress are filled with idealistic young people who have come to Washington hoping for a career in public service. They are the lifeblood of this institution, and are the democratic system's hope for the future. For any of those young people searching for a model of integrity, commitment, and public spiritedness upon which to base their career, I would suggest that they look to the long and distinguished career of Howard Greene.

We will miss him a great deal. And I will always be proud to call him my friend.

RETIRING SENATORS

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, these last few days mark the last that we will have the pleasure of working with some of the most talented and dedi-

cated Senators to have served in the U.S. Senate. That's because 13 of our finest Members will be retiring this year.

Recently, former Senator Warren Rudman wrote that "As a Senator I had enjoyed sitting down with colleagues like George Mitchell, SAM NUNN, BILL BRADLEY, JOE BIDEN, and TED KENNEDY and saying, 'We have a problem here—let's find a way to solve it.' They were Democrats, to the left of me politically, but just because we saw things differently I didn't question their morality or their patriotism. I didn't come to Washington to cram things down people's throats or to have people cram anything down my throat. I thought the essence of good government was reconciling divergent views with compromises that served the country's interests."

All of the Senators retiring at the end of this Congress have set their moral compasses in the direction of compromises to best serve the country's interests. In doing so, they have served their constituents, the U.S. Senate and the Nation well.

They understood that the arbitrary labels many are so insistent to place on each other, in the end, fall short and are inadequate to describe an individual's commitment to country. That in fact, to weigh a life, a community's future or a country's needs, a different type of scale is required.

In a pluralistic society such as ours, there are many ways to confront a problem and arrive at a solution. These fine Senators recognized that their job was to reach a principled position amidst all of these often conflicting choices. Henry Kissinger put it another way saying, "The public life of every political figure is a continual struggle to rescue an element of choice from the pressure of circumstance."

They saw that the preoccupation with these labels is what grips us in gridlock. And that paralysis can cripple a nation's ability to solve its problems and move forward. With their fine guidance we have been able to move beyond gridlock on issues of great importance to the everyday lives of all Americans from health care reforms to important budget and spending questions, energy, immigration, the elderly, and judicial matters.

When judging the choices they've made, I believe history will look back on their service with great respect and admiration. Over and over again, when confronted with conflict or when called upon for leadership, they insisted that their decisions answer the larger questions: Will it stand the test of time for our country? Will our country gain strength from this decision? Time and again, their guidance has resulted in policies that have come to define our country and the common vision we hold as a nation.

In closing, Mr. President, I want to extend my personal thanks to Senators SAM NUNN, NANCY KASSEBAUM, HOWELL HEFLIN, DAVID PRYOR, CLAIBORNE PELL,

JIM EXON, HANK BROWN, ALAN SIMPSON, PAUL SIMON, BILL BRADLEY, MARK HATFIELD, BENNETT JOHNSTON, and BILL COHEN for a job well done and my wishes for continued success in the future.

SECTION 405 OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I rise today to address a situation resulting from the Department of Education's interpretation of section 435 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 [HEA] which has adversely impacted many schools in Florida and across the country. In 1990, Congress amended the act to prohibit institutions from continuing their participation in the Federal Family Education Loan [FFEL] Program if their cohort default rate is equal to or above the threshold percentage for the 3 consecutive years "for which data is available." Along similar lines, this year Congress passed additional legislation which required that any school terminated from the FFEL program will no longer be eligible to receive Pell Grants for its students.

However, the Department of Education has taken the position that this law will be enforced using default rate data for years 1991, 1992, and 1993. Schools have already received their prepublished 1994 rates, many which are below the current threshold requirement, and some are even half of what they were in years prior. Despite this achievement, the Department has terminated or is currently terminating schools based on their 1991, 1992, and 1993 rate—not on their 1994 rate—because the Department does not consider the 1994 rate to be "available" until it is published. Based upon their technicality, the Department is essentially punishing schools which have implemented costly default management programs and achieved the desired result of the law—reducing their cohort default rate.

Mr. President, the intent of this law was for schools to educate their students about the importance of repaying their loans, and established a 3-year period within which a school must take proper measures to reduce its cohort default rate. It is perfectly acceptable for Congress to enact legislation to protect taxpayers from the costs associated with high default rates, and current law does so by requiring those involved in the Federal student loan process to educate students about the importance of repayment. However, I do not believe that Congress intended for schools which have reduced their default rate to be terminated from these programs.

Given this late hour, it is unlikely that legislation addressing this situation will be enacted prior to the close of the 104th Congress. Therefore, I ask the Department to do everything in its power to use the most recent data when evaluating the eligibility status of these institutions. I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT OF THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD FOR FISCAL YEAR 1995—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 172

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Railroad Retirement Board for Fiscal Year 1995, pursuant to the provisions of section 7(b)(6) of the Railroad Retirement Act and section 12 (l) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 27, 1996.

REPORT OF THE FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 1995—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 173

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 701 of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-454; 5 U.S.C. 7104(e)), I have the pleasure of transmitting to you the Seventeenth Annual Report of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for Fiscal Year 1995.

The report includes information on the cases heard and decisions rendered by the Federal Labor Relations Authority, the General Counsel of the Authority, and the Federal Service Impasses Panel.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 27, 1996.

REPORT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION ENTITLED "THE FAMILY-FRIENDLY WORKPLACE ACT OF 1996"—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 174

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying

report; which was referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit today for consideration and passage the "Family-Friendly Workplace Act of 1996." Also transmitted is a section-by-section analysis. This legislative proposal is vital to American workers, offering them a meaningful and flexible opportunity to balance successfully their work and family responsibilities.

The legislation would offer workers more choice and flexibility in finding ways to earn the wages they need to support their families while also spending valuable time with their families. In particular, the legislation would allow eligible employees who work overtime to receive compensatory time off—with a limit of up to 80 hours per year—in lieu of monetary compensation. In addition, the legislation contains explicit protections against coercion by employers and abuses by unstable or unscrupulous businesses.

The legislation also would amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993. This statute currently allows eligible workers at businesses with 50 or more employees to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to care for a newborn child, attend to their own serious health needs, or care for a seriously ill parent, child, or spouse. Although enactment of this statute was a major step forward in helping families balance work and family obligations, the law does not address many situations that working families typically confront. The enclosed legislation would cover more of these situations, thereby enhancing workers' ability to balance their need to care for their children and elderly relatives without sacrificing their employment obligations. Under the expanded law, workers could take up to 24 hours of unpaid leave each year to fulfill additional, specified family obligations, which would include participating in school activities that relate directly to the academic advancement of their children, accompanying children or elderly relatives to routine medical appointments, and attending to other health or care needs of elderly relatives.

I urge the Congress to give this legislation favorable consideration.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 27, 1996.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:40 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 221. Concurrent resolution correcting the enrollment of H.R. 3159.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate bill (H.R. 3159) to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1997, 1998,