

years later and 20 years later do much better in their careers. In just about every other measurable way, the 3- and 4-year-olds who had Head Start 10 years ago and 20 years ago or 15 years ago are doing much better than those who did not. Yet only about half of our children who are 3 and 4 years old who are eligible for Head Start get Head Start because of the lack of funding.

So what did this bill do? It cut Head Start, a program which I think, if not universally applauded, is about as supported a program as any I know of. This is not a case where we are cutting programs which are not working. This is a case where we are cutting programs which are working and which are essential to this country.

I know some of these cuts were used as threats, particularly by some people over in the House who are determined to get their way on bigger budget issues. These Members of the House who take the position, "It is my way or else; it is my way or else the Government is coming to a halt; it is my way or else we are going to have major cuts in education; it is my way or else our debts are not going to be paid, we're not going to pay interest on the national debt or on the obligations of this country," those "my way or else" Members of the House got their way in this continuing resolution. They should not have.

We should not let them have their way again. I think there are enough people in the Senate on a bipartisan basis who object deeply to these cuts in education that, if we will pull together, we can let the House know, particularly those 60 or so Republicans in the House who have taken this position that unless they get their way the Government is to shut down, it has to be their way or else the full faith and credit of the United States is going to be damaged—they had their way in this continuing resolution.

These cuts are a reflection of a tactic, an extreme tactic, an irresponsible tactic of closing the Government down unless they get their way. That tactic had, I think, negative and damaging results in this continuing resolution which we tried to repair. Fifty-one of us voted to repair it. Then ultimately the resolution passed because, I think, as the chairman of the Appropriations Committee felt, there was no choice. The gun was at our head.

We have to take that gun away, not just on keeping the Government going and restoring these education cuts, but also on the full faith and credit of the United States. This is a pattern which should not be repeated.

I hope that the Senate, on a bipartisan basis, sends a strong signal to Speaker GINGRICH that we are not going to tolerate this again and that we are going to seek to restore the cuts which have so damaged education programs and so left educators in a quandary as to what the funding is going to be for next fall. They do not know. There is no way for them to plan either in the K through 12 level or in college.

They do not know what the funding is going to be for college loans, for Pell grants, for student incentive grants. They do not know what the funding is going to be for Head Start for 3- and 4-year-olds. They do not know what the School-to-Work funding is going to be. And here we are approaching spring now, when the planning is done, with all of this up in the air.

So, Mr. President, I hope we will take a strong stand to restore these cuts, to repair the damage and to remove the gun which has been placed at the head of the economy and at Members of the Senate.

I thank the Chair and I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HATCH). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR RAY OF INDIA

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I want to take a moment today to pay tribute and bid a fond farewell to a very distinguished statesman, a good friend to the United States and a dear friend of mine—Siddhartha Shankar Ray, India's Ambassador to the United States. Ambassador Ray has decided to return to his home country, and more specifically to West Bengal, to run for a seat in the Indian Parliament. I wish him great success in this and in his future endeavors.

As all my colleagues know Ambassador Ray has worked tirelessly during his more than 3 years here to strengthen Indo-United States relations. It is safe to say he has performed his duties with great distinction and even greater success. His service to his country here in Washington came at a vital period in Indo-United States relations. With the end of the cold war, past barriers to better relations with India have gone with it, and vast new opportunities have emerged. We have seen increased investment, trade, and cultural exchanges between our two countries. We also are laying the groundwork for discussions on security issues. Ambassador Ray has played a vital role in this exciting new era. I am certain he will continue to do so.

Ambassador Ray is an industrious and articulate diplomat, and a tenacious advocate for his country. The secret of Ambassador Ray's success is simple. As Sister Mary Lauretta once stated: "To be successful, the first thing to do is fall in love with your work." Ambassador Ray loves India. He believes in India's future. His love of country and faith in his fellow citizens were evident throughout his service here.

I had the opportunity to spend time with Ambassador Ray and his wife, Maya, last week at his farewell dinner. Both have been positive forces for their country. Now, they intend to continue their already distinguished service at home. No matter what path Ambassador Ray may take, I am certain that all of India will stand to benefit.

Ambassador and Mrs. Ray will be sorely missed by all of us in the Washington community. But it is safe to say we can always look to Ambassador Ray to be an essential element in our strengthening ties with India. Again, I wish my friend Ambassador Ray and his family the very best.

HONORING THE MOORE'S FOR CELEBRATING THEIR 50TH WED- DING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, these are trying times for the family in America. Unfortunately, too many broken homes have become part of our national culture. It is tragic that nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce. The effects of divorce on families and particularly the children of broken families are devastating. In such an era, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "til death us do part" seriously and have successfully demonstrated the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity, to build a strong family. These qualities make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Mr. and Mrs. Albert Moore who on February 24 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. The Moore's commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized. I wish them and their family all the best as they celebrate this substantial marker on their journey together.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, 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 and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

REPORT CONCERNING THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY FOR FISCAL YEAR 1995—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 122

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 Foreign Relations.

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the provisions of section 504(h) of Public Law 98-164, as amended (22 U.S.C. 4413(i)), I transmit herewith the 12th Annual Report of the National Endowment for Democracy, which covers fiscal year 1995.

As the report demonstrates, the National Endowment for Democracy remains at the forefront of our efforts to expand and consolidate democratic gains around the globe. The strong bipartisan support the Endowment continues to receive reflects our Nation's steadfast commitment to the promotion of democracy.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 20, 1996.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING RECESS

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 1995, the Secretary of the Senate, on February 14, 1996 during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message for the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker reappoints Mr. Carl A. Anderson of Arlington, VA, as a member from private life, to the Commission on Civil Rights for a 6-year term beginning on February 12, 1996.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 1995, the Secretary of the Senate, on February 16, 1996, during the adjournment of the Senate received a message for the House of Representatives announcing that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2657) to award a congressional gold medal to Ruth and Billy Graham.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PRESSLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 981. A bill entitled "Truck Safety and Congressional Partnership Act" (Rept. No. 104-235).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PRESSLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

George W. Black, Jr., of Georgia, to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 1996.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BREAUX:

S. 1569. A bill to provide for 1 additional Federal judge for the middle district of Louisiana; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 1570. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the restriction on the assignment or alienation of pension plan benefits shall not apply to court-ordered criminal fines or victim restitution; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BREAUX:

S. 1569. A bill to provide for one additional Federal judge for the middle district of Louisiana; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

LOUISIANA FEDERAL JUDICIAL LEGISLATION

Mr. BREAUX.

Mr. President, I rise today to offer legislation that will correct a serious inequity in Louisiana's judicial districts.

My legislation adds an additional judge to the middle district of Louisiana, based in Baton Rouge. U.S. District Judges John Parker and Frank Polozola, the two Baton Rouge judges, each have almost 2,000 cases pending. The national average for Federal judges is 400 cases pending. Case filings in the middle district have totaled more than four times the national average. The Baton Rouge district also ranks first among the Nation's 97 Federal court districts in total filings, civil filings, weighted filings and in the percent change in total filings last year.

Louisiana's middle district is composed of nine parishes. The State capital and many of the State's adult and juvenile prisons and forensic facilities are located in this district. The court is regularly required to hear most of the litigation challenging the constitutionality of State laws and the actions of State agencies and officials. The district now has several reapportionment and election cases pending on the docket which generally require the immediate attention of the court. Additionally, because numerous chemical, oil, and industrial plants and hazardous waste sites are located in the middle district, the court has in the past and will continue to handle complex mass tort cases. One environmental case alone, involving over 7,000 plaintiffs and numerous defendants, is being handled by a judge from another district because both of the middle district's judges were recused.

Since 1984, the middle district has sought an additional judge because of its concern that its caseload would continue to rise despite the fact that its judges' termination rate exceeded that national average and ranked among the highest in numerical standing within the United States and the fifth circuit. Both the judicial conference and the Judicial Council of the Fifth Circuit have approved the middle district's request for an additional judgeship after each biennial survey from 1984 through 1994.

Mr. President, I know that my colleagues will agree with me that the clear solution to this obvious inequity is to assign an additional judge to Louisiana's middle district. I look forward to the Senate's resolution of this important matter.

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 1570. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the restriction on the assignment or alienation of pension plan benefits shall not apply to court-ordered criminal fines or victim restitution; to the Committee on Finance.

RESTITUTION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

LEGISLATION

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation that would provide crime victims a real opportunity to receive their due restitution from convicted criminals. This bill would enhance collections on criminal restitution orders for crime victims by allowing the Federal Government to garnish the pension plan benefits of convicted felons.

Currently, courts may not garnish pension benefits provided under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act [ERISA] to satisfy criminal restitution orders. As a result, criminals can avoid paying fines or making restitution to their victims when their only income consists of pension money. In fact, in most cases, criminals have pension money as their only source of income, and therefore, they never pay off their debt.

The amount of criminal debt had ballooned to nearly \$4.5 billion by the close of fiscal year 1994. The largest amount of that criminal debt is owed by defendants who have been ordered to pay restitution directly to crime victims. Over \$3 billion is outstanding on these criminal restitution orders.

We must not sit idly by and watch these criminal debt figures continue to mount year after year. Our Nation's crime victims deserve restitution. It is unfair that criminals are allowed to shield their pension funds from being garnished when those funds are necessary to provide much needed restitution to their victims.

Mr. President, the National Victim Center supports this legislation and best expressed the principle behind this bill by recognizing that crime shouldn't pay, but criminals should.

I would urge my colleagues to support this legislation. It will increase