

Mr. President, the House of Representatives is expecting to pass a 1-week extension of the existing CR perhaps this afternoon. They will send that over to the Senate once they have adopted it. The Senate, in this process now, would be then privileged to have a vote on that CR or to continue work on the current vehicle, the omnibus appropriations bill. I am very hopeful that we can keep on this bill to clean it up and finish it because we have to go to the House for a conference following our action. One week is not a very long time in the consideration of this vehicle and that which we are substituting for the House-passed omnibus package.

I am very hopeful that we can finish this and launch our conference with the House and by Friday midnight pass the 1-week extension that the House will probably pass today.

I think that is an orderly progression of our responsibility because I am fearful that if we extend this CR for 1 week, there is no pressure to finish this bill, and that will put us into next week on this vehicle and shortening the time, we have to understand, necessary to allow for a conference with the House.

I hoped we could escape any additional CR, but that is not the way the Senate has worked its will. I wish to indicate again that if Senators are serious about the amendments they have listed, I hope they will appear in the Chamber and provide the body an opportunity to discuss and to dispose one way or another of the amendments.

Senator HATCH has indicated that he will be here at 1 o'clock in order to offer an amendment. I see the Senator from North Dakota in the Chamber, looking as though he is preparing to ask for recognition, and hopefully he is preparing to offer an amendment, because, very frankly, I do need a soft shoe or catchy tunes. We have about a 20-minute interval facing us that I do not want to waste until the Senator from Utah arrives on his schedule for submission of an amendment.

Am I reading the actions of the Senator from North Dakota correctly?

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I will advise the Senator from Oregon I should like to seek the floor for 2 minutes on an unrelated item. I think there is one amendment referenced for me which may occur but would require no floor time. So I will not ask for additional time from the Senator from Oregon.

I appreciate the difficulty is to try to get this bill done, and I understand the urgency with which he requests Senators to come and offer their amendments. I share the interest in seeing that this bill gets completed. If there are no other Senators seeking recognition when the Senator from Oregon relinquishes the floor, I would ask for 2 minutes on an unrelated subject.

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I hope it is in the form of a unanimous-consent, and then I would say that I would object to that unanimous con-

sent request from the Senator from North Dakota unless it includes a soft shoe or a catchy tune for the rest of the time we are waiting for the Senator from Utah.

Mr. DORGAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. I would say to my friend from Oregon, the soft shoes and loud tunes, was it, are better reserved for other Members of the Senate. In fact, we have seen one example of that in the Senate. It was played and re-played on the nightly news, and I thought it had less to do with talent than it had to do with the mere shock of seeing it occur on the Senate floor.

Let me ask unanimous consent to speak for 2 minutes as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

THE FARM BILL

Mr. DORGAN. I seek the floor—and I would not have done it had other Members wanted to continue on this bill—for 2 minutes to say that we are dealing with a lot of important issues in the Senate on this continuing appropriations bill, but there is another issue that is of enormous importance to North Dakota and to the farm belt. That is the farm bill which is now in conference.

I want very much, now that conferees are appointed, for them to work around the clock in order to resolve the differences on the farm bill, bring it to the floor of the House and Senate and get a farm bill in place.

The fact is, farmers in North Dakota, tens of thousands of them, are now ready to go to the fields. In a matter of weeks, they will be in the fields doing spring planting. The farm bill that was supposed to have been passed last year was not. It is now mid-March 1996, and we do not yet have a farm bill.

I have discerned that really if this is a revolution in the 104th Congress, it is a revolution with two speeds: One is a full gallop when it comes to the larger economic interests. Let Wall Street have a headache, and we have a dozen people rushing in with medicine bottles. Let some of the larger corporate interests complain about a bellyache, and we have people who want to tuck them in bed. But let family farmers out there go around without a farm bill and people say there is no need for a farm program; we do not need to get a farm bill for the family farmer. There is slow motion in dealing with issues family farmers need dealt with.

Farmers in North Dakota and Kansas and South Dakota, Nebraska need to understand what is the farm program. What are the conditions under which they will plant this spring? Will there be a safety net or will there not be a safety net? I would like Congress to provide that answer, and I would like them to provide that answer sooner rather than later.

A couple of weeks ensued when the House was in recess after the Senate passed its bill and a number of weeks lapsed while we were waiting for conferees to be appointed. It is time for the conference now that it is established to start working around the clock and get this done. It ought not take a long period of time.

Farmers deserve an answer. I know that each individual farmer does not have a lot of economic clout, and I guess that is why we do not see the rush to serve their needs like we see when some of the larger economic interests float around this institution.

I hope very soon the conference will convene and the conference will complete its work, bring its work to the Congress, and tell the family farmers of this country what will be the farm bill for 1996. This Congress owes that to the farmers, and farmers deserve to hear it.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I make a point of order that a quorum is not present.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WELLSTONE. 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 TRAGEDY IN DUNBLANE

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I will be very brief. I actually do not have any prepared remarks, but I was thinking that maybe later on I would write up a resolution, or the leadership could write up a resolution, that there ought to be some words, some kind of statement by the United States Senate, maybe it is a message of love, to the people of Dunblane, Scotland.

The slaughter of 16 children is just the ultimate nightmare. All of us who have children or grandchildren—or whether we have or do not have children or grandchildren, it does not make any difference—just in terms of our own humanity, I think we all can feel, and we know the horror of what has happened.

So, as a Senator from Minnesota, I just wanted to send my prayers and my love to the people of Dunblane and to tell them that today, in the U.S. Senate, it is not as if they are not in our thoughts and prayers.

Mr. President, I wish it was in my power to do more. I wish it was in our power to do more. But I think something should be said about it on the floor of the Senate, so I rise to speak, to send my love to the people of Scotland. I believe I speak for other Senators as well. Maybe later on today we can have a resolution that I know all of us will support.

Sometimes when you do this it seems unimportant, but it really is not, because it is kind of a way in which all

the people of the world reach out and hug one another at these moments. So, later on, maybe we can have a leadership resolution or some kind of resolution that all Senators can sign on to, and we can send that to the parents, to the families of Dunblane.

I hope and pray this never happens again.

I yield the floor.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

BALANCED BUDGET DOWNPAYMENT ACT, II

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 3495 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3466

(Purpose: To provide additional funding for the Office of National Drug Control Policy)

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I am going to offer an amendment to increase the drug czar's office. I think it is critical to this country that we start taking the matter of drug control more seriously than we have over the last number of years.

So, I rise to offer an amendment to provide an adequate level of funding for the Office of National Drug Control Policy, better known as the drug czar's office.

This amendment increases ONDCP's budget by a modest \$3.9 million to a total of \$11.4 million for fiscal year 1996. That is still well below ONDCP's funding level during President Bush's administration but higher than the administration has requested. In fiscal year 1992, when George Bush was President, ONDCP was getting \$18.1 million for operating expenses.

We all know why this amendment is necessary. By many accounts, President Clinton has downgraded the war on drugs. One of his first acts upon taking office was to cut the drug czar's staff from 146 down to 25. The President said he was fulfilling a campaign pledge to cut staff, but several of us on both sides of the aisle warned that the new drug czar would not be effective without the tools to do his job. We were right. Indeed, the President's own drug czar conceded in 1993 that drugs were no longer "at the top of the agenda." That was in the Washington Post on July 8, 1993.

For 3 years, President Clinton gave us an imbalanced strategy focusing primarily on the treatment of hardcore users. The strategy left law enforcement and interdiction agencies twisting in the wind. Federal drug prosecutions fell, drug seizures dropped, the ability of U.S. forces to seize or otherwise turn back drug shipments in the

transit zone plummeted by 53 percent. This is just over the first 3 years of President Clinton's administration.

Although the President's stated policy was to focus on hardcore users, President Clinton also presided over record increases in the quality and purity of drugs reaching American streets, as well as staggering increases in the number of drug-related emergency room admissions of hardcore users.

As for supply reduction efforts, there appeared to be none. As recently as 1 month ago, White House staff were arguing that more money for interdiction would be wasted money. This irresponsible talk was coming from people who are supposed to be advocates for the drug war, not advocates against the drug war.

It is indisputable that under President Clinton's leadership, we have been losing ground on this issue. Just look at what has happened since 1992 with our young people. Last year, the number of 12 to 17-year-olds using marijuana hit 2.9 million, almost double the 1992 level, according to the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse in November of 1995.

LSD use is way up among high school seniors. Mr. President, 11.7 percent of the class of 1995 have tried it at least once. That is the highest rate since recordkeeping started in 1975.

A parents' group survey released this November found that one in three high school seniors now smoke marijuana—one in three.

Methamphetamine abuse has become a major problem, particularly in the Western States, including mine. Emergency room cases are up 256 percent over the 1991 level.

After 3 years of inaction, President Clinton now wants to give his drug officials a fighting chance. OMB has requested \$3.4 million to beef up the office. This will allow them to hire 80 additional staff.

Mr. President, in closing, I want to give the President some credit for giving us a new drug czar who, by all accounts, is dynamic and energetic. The unanswered question here is whether the selection of General McCaffrey signals President Clinton's newfound commitment to lead in the drug war or whether it is more simply an election year makeover.

Adopting this amendment is ultimately about helping our children, about helping the 48.4 percent of the class of 1995 that had tried drugs by graduation day. It is about doing something to stem the increasing number of 12 to 17-year olds using marijuana, currently 2.9 million of them. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and give General McCaffrey the tools he needs to do this job.

Mr. President, we have to get serious about this drug problem. It is eating us alive. It is funding most, if not all, of the organized crime in this country. It is debilitating our young people. One in three seniors is trying marijuana, one

in three senior high school students in the senior class happens to be trying marijuana. Think about that. There is an 85 times greater likelihood for them to move on to harder drugs, especially cocaine, if they have tried marijuana.

The vast majority of these kids think, today, both users and nonusers, that marijuana usage is less harmful to them than ordinary tobacco usage, than smoking simple cigarettes. Both, as anyone who knows anything about health will tell you, both are harmful to you. It is terrible to smoke cigarettes because they are going to lead to cancer and heart disease and a whole raft of other problems, but it is even worse to smoke marijuana, which can lead to all kinds of debilitations that deteriorate our society as a whole and make it difficult for people to do what is right and to live up to what is right.

On top of all that, we have those in the administration who are arguing that the only side of the equation that really needs to receive some consideration happens to be the demand side, that means those who are taking drugs. They take the limited resources that we have and put almost all of them toward hard-core drug addicts, of whom the potential of saving is very, very low.

I am not saying we should not help hard-core drug addicts. We should. But we certainly ought to be putting what limited resources we have into helping these first-time offenders and these young kids who have really got caught up in the drug world to come out of it and rehabilitate themselves. It is important to do the demand side of the equation. I am for that.

I think we ought to put money in that, and the drug czar needs to spend some time on it. But unless we are doing the supply side as well, we will never make any headway because we have to interdict and stop the flow of drugs coming into this country and we have to interdict and stop those who are making drugs in this country, especially with the new methamphetamine rise that is inundating the Western States and is moving eastward with rapidity.

We have to start fighting against these things, and we have to have our young people understand the importance of fighting against drug abuse in our society today.

I look at all the drive-by shootings, kids with weapons, the murders in our country's Capital here. I look at all these things, and I know that a lot of this is driven by the drug trade, it is driven by the drug community, it is driven by those who should know a lot better.

Mr. President, there is a second half to this amendment that we are going to file here today. This is an amendment that I am filing on behalf of myself and Senator GRASSLEY. We are adding various funds to the budget, even above what the President has requested for the drug czar, because I believe that this drug czar has to have our support,