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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 18, 1996, at 2 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1996

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

On Sunday, we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day, and, so, I feel today it is appropriate to give the Gaelic Blessing and then the prayer St. Patrick used each morning.

May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun lie warm upon Your face,
The rain fall softly on your fields,
And until we meet again
May the Lord hold you
In the hollow of His hand.

Gracious Lord, we remember the words with which St. Patrick began his days. "I arise today, through God's might to uphold me, God's wisdom to guide me, God's eye to look before me, God's ear to hear me, God's hand to guard me, God's way to lie before me and God's shield to protect me." In Your holy name, Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, for the information of my colleagues this morning, there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 10 o'clock. Following morning business,

the Senate will begin consideration of S. 942, the small business regulatory relief bill, under the consent agreement reached yesterday. When the Senate concludes the debate on the small business bill, it will resume consideration of the continuing resolution. Senators should be reminded that any votes ordered on the small business regulatory relief bill or the continuing resolution will occur during Tuesday's session of the Senate. No rollcall votes will occur today or on Monday. However, Senators should be prepared to debate their amendments on these days in order to complete action on the continuing resolution appropriations bill on Tuesday, as is required under the consent agreement.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business.

Mr. WELLSTONE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). The Senator from Minnesota.

THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I thank my colleague for his graciousness in allowing me some time to announce the realization of another component of our initiative to prevent violence against women: the national domestic violence hotline. The hotline, which officially opened on February 24, signifies the realization of the key pro-

vision of the Violence Against Women Act passed by the Congress as part of the 1994 crime bill.

I urge my colleagues, as we go into appropriations, to continue to fully fund this. The toll-free number is 1-800-799-SAFE. This will provide immediate crisis assistance counseling and local shelter referrals to women across the country 24 hours a day. And for women that are watching right now on C-SPAN, again, I want to repeat this number: 1-800-799-SAFE. There is also a TDD number for the hearing impaired: 1-800-787-3224.

The hotline will help to ensure that any person suffering due to violence in their home will have immediate access to information and emergency assistance whenever they need it. This is an important part of our initiative to end the family violence that has such devastating consequences for women, children, and families in Minnesota and throughout the country.

Roughly 1 million women are victims of domestic violence each year, and battering may be the single most common cause of injury to women—more common than auto accidents, muggings, or rapes by a stranger.

According to the FBI, one out of every two women in America will be beaten at least once in the course of an intimate relationship—one out of every two women in America. The FBI also speculates that battering is the most underreported crime in the country.

It is estimated that the new hotline will receive close to 10,000 calls a day. And for all women that are watching, again, the number is 1-800-799-SAFE,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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and the TDD number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-787-3224.

Mr. President, my wife, Sheila, speaks about domestic violence all around Minnesota. Sheila was speaking in southern Minnesota 2 days before the hotline opened. She spoke with a woman who had been living in New York with her abusive husband and 5-month-old child. Her husband had moved to New York following their marriage, and he kept his wife and child very isolated there. The husband was very controlling and made it impossible for his wife to socialize, make friends, or have a job. He checked on her all the time to make sure that she was at home with their baby. In addition to beating her routinely and savagely, he took out a life insurance policy on her. So she lived in constant fear of being killed.

This woman told Sheila that every time she opened the apartment door, she was sure someone would be on the other side with a shotgun. Her husband at one time had been out of town on a business deal. He left in the afternoon and planned on returning the following morning. After he left, she decided that it was her only chance to get away. Panicked and pressed for time, she called a local hotline number but found it was disconnected. She was devastated. She called the legal aid society in New York City and was initially told that they could not help her.

Out of sheer desperation, Mr. President, she persisted with legal aid and was finally given a local agency phone number. Calling the local agency, the woman informed them that she wanted to return home to Minnesota. They were able to access a computer and put her in touch with a battered women shelter in her hometown. She and her baby were on a plane the next morning before her husband got home.

Mr. President, this woman was lucky. She was able to find the information she needed. But how much better it would have been if the hotline had been up and running to give her the information immediately. Unfortunately, some women might not have the whole day to track down information.

I think this shows how crucial the national network like the hotline will be for keeping women and children safe—even, literally, saving their lives. When a woman calls the hotline, her call will be answered by a counselor who can provide crisis assistance and who can also access a nationwide data base and provide the caller with up-to-date information about shelters and other services in her community. If the caller wishes, the hotline counselor can even transfer her call to a local counselor.

Because the hotline is toll-free, women can call in complete privacy, never having to fear a long-distance number will appear on their telephone bill and, therefore, alert an abusive partner. Help is also available in Spanish and other languages.

I hope that the new national domestic violence hotline will help women and families find the support, the assistance, and the services they need to get out of homes where there is violence and abuse.

In addition to establishing networks between counselors, shelter workers, law enforcement officers, and service providers, the hotline will help make sure that anyone who is not safe in their home has access to their services.

Mr. President, once again, the toll free number from the floor of the U.S. Senate is 1-800-799-SAFE, and for those that are hearing impaired, the number is 1-800-787-3224.

What I wish to do with the indulgence of my colleagues is for the next several weeks come to the floor of the Senate at least once a day when I can find the time—and I will find the time because this is a priority—to read this number. It is important that as many women and as many children and as many families as possible understand this new initiative. It is very important to making sure that women and children have the protection they need.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CHAFEE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KEMPTHORNE). The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. CHAFEE. I ask unanimous consent I may proceed for 10 minutes as in morning business.

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

SUPERFUND REFORM

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, for the past several years, we have been trying to pass legislation to fix the Superfund toxic waste cleanup program. Superfund is a program with a tortured history and certainly an uneven record of success that can only be described as truly uneven. We have accomplished some good things since the law was passed in 1980, but those accomplishments under Superfund have come at a tremendous cost.

Almost everyone agrees—and I will say, Mr. President, I do not think anyone disagrees—that Congress should enact a Superfund reform bill as soon as possible. Even President Clinton said recently that “we have to repair the Superfund toxic waste cleanup program.”

I agree with the President about the need to fix Superfund. Unfortunately, in the speech that the President delivered last Monday, March 11, in New Jersey, he went on to attack the Superfund reauthorization process now underway in Congress. Using the old worn out rhetoric about “making polluters pay,” the President mischaracterized the proposals on which we are now working.

I believe it is just plain wrong to imply that the Superfund liability reform proposals we are considering

would shift costs from the polluters to the taxpayers. That is the theme that is being sounded. The pending proposals we are considering in the Environment and Public Works Committee would do no such thing. What we seek to do in the committee is to use money that comes from the three Superfund taxes which are levied on the chemical industry, the oil industry, and manufacturing corporations, and use the money, which does not come from the ordinary taxpayer; it comes through those three entities: chemical industry, oil industry, and manufacturing corporations, for the cleanup. This is the money that is collected for cleanup. It is paid into a Superfund trust fund for the suspected polluting class.

That is the source of revenues to fund liability reform. No one is trying to shift the cost of cleanup to our constituents. Unless one is already paying any of the three Superfund taxes, there is no need to worry about being made to pay for Superfund. There is no talk about letting polluters off the hook and making taxpayers pay. The President's advisers know this so why do they continue to misinform him about our plans? The President's invocation of the tired old “polluter pays” rhetoric does not help us get the job done. Maybe some focus group somewhere has told the President's advisers that this is a winning issue for the administration, but the rhetoric does nothing to advance the Superfund policy debate.

Under Superfund, anyone can be tarred with the polluter stigma. If you disposed of something—think of this—legally and in accordance with the best practices of the day in the 1970's or the 1960's or the 1950's or even earlier, you can still be held liable under the Superfund law and be called a polluter. You can be held liable for a law that passed way after the so-called pollution was done.

On Monday, the President suggested that Congress should “help small business and communities trapped in the liability net.” In other words, the President said help those communities that dispose of these polluting substances before the enactment of Superfund. Let them off the hook. I agree with the President, but how can he ask us to let one or two groups of polluters off the hook and then complain that we are doing something wrong when we try to help others who may be trapped in the same liability net? I suppose the logic is that if you are small and a public entity—a public entity being a county or a town or city or municipality—and you are liable under Superfund, somehow that is not pollution. If you let that person off but you are something else, presumably if you are a larger business and you are a polluter, you cannot let that person off. This, it seems to me, is Superfund logic at its worst. It may be good politics, but it is irresponsible in the middle of a serious policy debate.

The timing of the President's remarks was also disappointing. We are