

and child in America owes \$19,445.43 as his or her share of that debt.

This enormous debt is a festering, escalating burden on all citizens and especially it is jeopardizing the liberty of our children and grandchildren. As Jefferson once warned, "to preserve [our] independence, we must not let our leaders load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between economy and liberty, or profusion and servitude." Isn't it about time that Congress heeded the wise words of the author of the Declaration of Independence?

THE 12TH ANNUAL TUFTONIA'S WEEK CELEBRATION AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, next week Tufts University in Medford, MA, will hold its 12th Annual Tuftonia's Week Celebration. Tufts alumni from around the world will gather to honor their outstanding university. This celebration has special meaning for me because my daughter, Kara, is a graduate of Tufts, and I am proud to count myself as a member of the Tufts family.

Tufts was founded in 1852, and it now has over 8,000 students from all 50 States and more than 100 foreign countries. The university offers degrees in a wide range of disciplines, including Liberal Arts, Engineering, Occupational Therapy, Nutrition Science and Policy, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, and Law and Diplomacy.

This year, the theme of Tuftonia's Week is community service. The occasion will honor the large number of Tufts graduates across the country who are volunteering in their communities and helping to improve the lives of others in their neighborhoods through the TuftServe program. Last year, Tufts alumni contributed more than 19,000 volunteer hours, and an even higher level of participation is anticipated this year. Tufts deserves great credit for its leadership among universities in emphasizing the value of service learning and providing opportunities for students to combine community service with their academic curriculum.

I am honored to take this opportunity to congratulate Tufts' President, John DiBiaggio, and the others in the Tufts community for their impressive accomplishments.

THE TEAM ACT

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I recently became a co-sponsor of S. 295, the Teamwork for Employers and Management Act, a bill that is scheduled for markup today in the Labor Committee and which the Small Business Committee, on which I sit, will consider tomorrow. This bill is very important to small businesses. It is important to all business but, with 98 percent of Montana's businesses considered small, those are the folks I'm hearing from.

Many of the businesses that have contacted me were in shock. They had

no idea that the committees they had formed with their employees were in violation of the law. As far as they were concerned, they were just good business practice. The committees kept the employees involved in operations and improved customer satisfaction.

But according to the National Labor Relations Act, employee involvement is illegal. The intent of the law, established in the 1930's, was to prevent employers from dominating a labor organization. And labor organization is defined as a group of employees that discusses terms or conditions of employment with the employer. That may be well and good as far as collective bargaining is concerned—at the time, the NLRB wanted to stop employers from establishing these company unions to keep independent unions out—but the law is being interpreted to mean that discussions of safety, productivity, and quality are considered conditions of employment. That's causing more than a little heart burn.

Let me give you an example. There is a Montana company I have heard from, and I will not name them since, understandably, many small businesses are afraid of having their practices brought to the attention of the NLRB. But this company, with diversified interests, has formed a committee on safety—safety not only of employees who work with a variety of equipment but of the thousands of visitors who use their facilities every day. This committee gives the employees ownership of their surroundings and results in a safer workplace for everyone.

This same company also has a committee on customer satisfaction. The employees survey the facilities periodically and decide on changes in decorations, improvements in the surroundings, how to make the area more customer friendly—basically how to draw business in and keep it. Once again, this is not only a good business practice, it is a way to keep the employees energized about their work conditions. How can this possibly be against the law? That is not only the question they are asking, it is one we should all ask.

Yet, if the National Labor Relations Board learned about these employee involvement teams, according to the law, they could penalize the employer. And in a number of cases, they already have. That does not even make sense.

Now, I know that the Government is famous for not making sense—and that is what our regulatory reform efforts are about—but here is one specific place we can make a difference. By passing this bill, the Teamwork for Employees and Management Act, without any taxpayers dollars, without any new volumes of paperwork, we can let business get back to business without fear of the heavy hand of Government coming down on them.

By simply amending the National Labor Relations Act, we can allow teamwork to continue, and allow businesses to form teams to safeguard

working conditions, improvement productivity and efficiency, and boost the quality of their products. This does not just benefit the employer and the employee, it helps our economy.

Mr. President, this provision of the law may have served its purposes 60 years ago, but it is not necessary today. Small businesses need all the help they can get to survive in today's competitive market and being flexible is vital to that success. Small business owners need the input, the advice, the cooperation, and the labor of their employees. To prohibit that involvement is to squash innovation and prosperity, the very ideals that make up the American Dream.

I strongly support this legislation, Mr. President. I hope we can bring this to the floor quickly and relieve the stress on our small businesses around the Nation who have learned of their allegedly "illegal" business practices. Let us get the government off their backs once again, and let business do what they do best—create jobs and produce high quality goods and services for the world to enjoy.

THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, an important bill was recently reported out of the Senate Labor Committee and I hope it will make its way to the Senate floor quickly. This is a bill that was designed with not only children in mind—and that is foremost—but with the needs of teachers, administrators, and parents of children with disabilities. That can be a delicate balance, but I think it was achieved.

S. 1578, the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act reauthorization, ensures that children with disabilities have access to a free appropriate public education. At first, that may sound like something we would assume is a guaranteed right of any American citizen. And it is. But many children with disabilities have special needs—needs that neither the parents nor the schools can meet without sacrifice. And it seems that when this bill was first enacted in 1975, the burdens on some were increased. And 21 years later, we have the opportunity to make some positive changes.

Let me just highlight a few of the changes that are proposed that prompted me to sign my name on this bill. To begin with, S. 1578 reduces the bureaucratic maze that schools have been required to fight their way through. Right now, State and local education agencies must submit a plan or application every 3 years. Now, they will only have to prepare that plan once, unless they institute substantial changes. And the data they are required to collect is cut in half.

Some may say, "But how will that affect my child's education?" As I've visited with school administrators and teachers around Montana, it has

amazed me to hear how many resources are tied up with paperwork generating, reporting requirements, and tracking. If it wasn't required by law, I wouldn't be surprised if schools refused to enroll children with disabilities. The amount of time it takes a school employee to keep up with the regulations, the amount of financial resources that are used to document school activities and student performance—it's almost a miracle that the school has the time to educate the children.

When we reduce the paperwork, the reporting requirements, the documentation, we free up time and money to devote to the education of our children and we allow those children with disabilities to achieve as much as they can possibly achieve. It allows the teacher to get back to the classroom, the administrator to get back to making sure the school is safe and the curriculum is top-notch, and the parents to rest easy knowing that their child is receiving the same educational opportunities every other child is receiving.

But one of the most common remarks I've heard from Montana schools is that they need more flexibility. And this bill gives them that. In particular, the question of discipline is often raised. Current law prohibits schools from suspending a disabled child for more than 30 days even if the child brought in a dangerous weapon or threatened a teacher or student. S. 1578 gives the school some flexibility in deciding how to handle that violation. If a child with a disability violates such a policy, that child may be suspended for up to 10 school days. In that time, the IEP team may designate an alternative placement for up to 35 days. And, if the behavior was not related to the disability, the child can be disciplined as any other nondisabled child would be.

Mr. President, I want to make sure that all children have access to a free, appropriate public education. Whether a child has a disability, mental or physical, whether a child is poor or disadvantaged, whether the parents of schooled children have the resources to afford special care or not—we need to take the responsibility of educating our future generations very seriously.

And there is a balance we need to maintain. Order and discipline in our schools is essential to creating an environment conducive to learning, for disabled and nondisabled children alike. There should be a balance between the parents involvement and the schools efforts in educating a child with disabilities. And there is a balance to be kept between making sure schools are accountable for the Federal dollars they receive and overburdening them with red tape. This bill, S. 1578, strikes that balance.

I join my colleagues in supporting this important legislation and I commend Senator FRIST for his hard work in making sure that both parents and schools were consulted in proposing these changes. With the bipartisan support it enjoyed in the Labor Commit-

tee, I look forward to seeing this bill brought to the Senate floor soon. Our Nation's future—our children—depend on it.

SECRETARY RON BROWN AND BARRY CONRAD

• Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I offer my heartfelt condolences and prayers to the family of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and to all of the other families who have lost a loved one in this terrible tragedy.

It is never easy to lose someone close to you. Yet I believe those that Commerce Secretary Brown left behind—his wife Alma, his daughter Tracey, and his son Michael—can be comforted and given strength by the knowledge that Ron Brown died doing what he loved: Representing the President as Commerce Secretary and serving America by promoting American economic interests abroad.

Secretary Brown will be remembered for his commitment to our democracy, his charisma, and the enthusiasm with which he embraced new ideas and challenges. I will keep Alma, Tracey, Michael, and all others who are mourning this great loss, in my thoughts and prayers during their time of grief.

I would also like to offer my condolences at this time to the family of Barry L. Conrad who was accompanying Secretary Brown on his trip to the Balkans. Mr. Conrad was the founder of the Barrington Group, a dynamic hotel company in Miami, and had previously headed Burger King's U.S. franchise operation.

In addition to being a successful businessman, Mr. Conrad was a very prominent and well-respected member of the south Florida community. This is a great loss not only for the family and friends of Mr. Conrad but for the entire State of Florida.

I am praying for the Conrad family, and all others who are mourning as a result of this tragedy. •

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 which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:54 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 842. An act to provide off-budget treatment for the Highway Trust Fund, the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, and the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:07 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 255. An act to designate the Federal Justice Building in Miami, Florida, as the "James Lawrence King Federal Justice Building."

H.R. 869. An act to designate the Federal building and U.S. Courthouse located at 125 Market Street in Youngstown, Ohio, as the "Thomas D. Lambros Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse."

H.R. 1804. An act to designate the United States Post Office-Courthouse located at South 6th and Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, Arkansas, as the "Judge Isaac C. Parker Federal Building."

H.R. 2415. An act to designate the United States Customs Administrative Building at the Ysleta/Zaragosa Port of Entry located at 797 South Ysleta in El Paso, Texas, as the "Timothy C. McCaghen Customs Administrative Building."

H.R. 2556. An act to redesignate the Federal building located at 345 Middlefield Road in Menlo Park, California, and known as the Earth Sciences and Library Building, as the "Vincent E. McKelvey Federal Building."

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

At 4:09 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 735) to prevent and punish acts of terrorism, and for other purposes.

MEASURED REFERRED

Pursuant to the order of August 4, 1977, with instructions that if one Committee reports, the other Committee have thirty days to report or be discharged, the following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 842. An act to provide off-budget treatment for the Highway Trust Fund, the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, and the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund; to the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2262. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the cumulative report on rescissions and deferrals dated April 1,