

Labor and Human Resources and 100 to 0 by the full Senate. The bill was entirely noncontroversial, and it makes no sense to saddle it with this last-minute killer controversy. If the Kassebaum-Kennedy bill were passed by Congress today, it would be signed by the President tomorrow.

This bill has had two unanimous bipartisan votes in the Senate, first in committee and again on the Senate floor. Yet it is going to die because of the Republicans' decision to force it to swallow this bitter poison pill.

Under the Republican plan, medical savings accounts could be sold to every employee of every business in America with more than 50 workers, approximately two-thirds of all workers, more than 80 million employees, and within a few years, they will be extended to everyone else. Some compromise.

A massive untested right wing health idea is being forced on the country. Any such massive plan is irresponsible and unacceptable.

Reasonable compromises are possible, but what House Republicans want is capitulation, not compromise.

Not everyone agrees that medical savings accounts are a bad idea, but surely we should agree that they ought to be tested first before being imposed full-blown on the American people.

We all know what is going on. MSA's reward a handful of insurance companies that have contributed lavishly to Republicans in Congress, and they profit handsomely from the worst abuses of the current system.

The Golden Rule Insurance Co., with \$1.5 million in campaign contributions, is the political engine driving this proposal. The company does business selling MSA's, and it will profit immensely from the Republican plan. Yet, the company refuses to share the data on its plans with impartial analysts at the American Academy of Actuaries and other bodies. The company, and its Republican allies, are thumbing their nose at the public interest and asking the American people to buy a pig in a poke.

Why should the taxpayers be asked to subsidize such a scheme with billions of dollars in lavish tax breaks that will go primarily to the wealthy? Medical savings accounts tax the sick for the benefit of the healthy and wealthy. They discourage preventive care by enticing the healthiest Americans to leave their current broad insurance pool. MSA's violate a bedrock principle of health insurance: Broad-based coverage to spread the risk of illness among large numbers of citizens in order to make insurance premiums affordable for those who need health care.

Adoption of MSA's will raise premiums for everyone else and threaten the very existence of conventional health insurance. It will cost the Treasury billions of dollars that should be used to expand health insurance coverage or go for deficit reduction.

They represent a risky and unnecessary experiment that threatens the

health insurance coverage of every American family. It would be reckless to include any such full-blown version of medical savings accounts in this bill. The Senate has already rejected this approach, and President Clinton will veto any bill that tries to impose this untried and dangerous idea on the country.

The Republicans have also refused to appoint conferees to a fairly balanced conference. Despite repeated requests, they refuse to meet with Democrats for serious negotiation. They have ignored four separate compromises that we have offered to allow a fair test of medical savings accounts without endangering the tens of millions of Americans who depend on their current insurance.

The Kassebaum-Kennedy bill contains a number of key consensus reforms that virtually everyone agrees on. It guarantees that no American will be denied health insurance or be saddled with exclusions for preexisting conditions because they change their job or lose their job or because their employer changes insurance companies. It provides help to small businesses that want to join together to negotiate lower insurance premiums of the kind that only large corporations can obtain today. Those reforms deserve to pass, and they will pass if Senator DOLE relents.

When Senator DOLE leaves the Senate next week, he can take his health insurance with him. Every American should have the same right. Many times in recent weeks, Senator DOLE has said he wants this bill to pass. For months, Senator DOLE has criticized President Clinton for saying one thing and doing another. Senator DOLE should look in the mirror this weekend and see what he has done.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. HEFLIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR BOB DOLE

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, the political world was stunned a few weeks ago when our colleague, Majority Leader BOB DOLE, announced his resignation from the U.S. Senate after 36 years of representing his native State of Kansas. In his emotional and moving farewell speech, he said he wanted to campaign for the Presidency "with nothing to fall back on but the judgment of the people and nowhere to go but the White House or home."

Senator DOLE was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1960. He came to the Senate in 1968, where he served as the Republican leader for a record 11 years. He ran for Vice President with President Gerald Ford in 1976 and ran for the Republican Presidential nomination in 1980 and 1988. He has been a fixture of our National Government for 36 years. Regardless of what we might think of his decision to give up his life's work for an attempt at the

White House, we all agree that BOB DOLE has been an outstanding Senator and leader. He is a master legislator.

Norman Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute has called Senator DOLE one of the five most significant Senators of the last half of the 20th century. That sentiment has been echoed by the Brookings Institute's Stephen Hess, who labeled him "somebody who could get things done." And in Washington, especially in the unwieldy Senate, this is no small compliment.

I have had the pleasure of serving with BOB DOLE for nearly 18 years and know him to be an excellent legislator with an amazing ability to reach solutions to difficult and controversial issues. He is an honest and forthright man of integrity. Had he and the President been able to negotiate in good faith last fall and winter during the heated budget debate, I have no doubt they could have reached a solution which would have been good for our country and our future. Unfortunately, the House leadership would not agree to such an effort.

Despite his legislative prowess, his major strengths lie in the force of his personality and his style. His power comes from his knowledge, from hard work, from his humor and from his strong friendships on both sides of the aisle, and from his rare moral authority. He does his own work and does not delegate much.

He comes from a humble background, the son of a cream and egg station operator in Russell, KS. After serving in the Army during World War II, where he suffered grave and lasting wounds, he spent 8 years as a county attorney dealing with people from all stations in life. He dealt with bankers and country club members, but also with garage mechanics and feed store clerks. He has exhibited a comprehensive understanding of America as a leader for the interests of the average and disadvantaged Americans.

As Senator BOB DOLE—a true giant in the history of the Senate—leaves this body, he holds so dear, to pursue the Nation's highest office, I join my colleagues in saluting him.

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

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

OFFICE OF PIPELINE SAFETY REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise today to comment on a recent action by the Senate's Committee on Commerce, Science, and Technology. In a completely bipartisan manner, the reauthorization for the Office of Pipeline

Safety (S. 1505) was approved with a substitute amendment offered by Senator PRESSLER. The compromise amendment language was crafted through the leadership of Senators PRESSLER and EXON. It was also cosponsored by Senators STEVENS, HUTCHISON, INOUE, FORD, BURNS, and BREAUX. It is now ready for consideration by the full Senate.

The negotiations involved many, and included various offices within the Department of Transportation. The major trade organizations ranging from the American Gas Association, the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, the American Petroleum Institute, the American Public Gas Association, to the Association of Oil Pipe Lines participated as well. Valuable Assistance was also received from the dedicated staff of the Congressional Research Service. Input was also received from state and environmental groups like the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives, the Natural Resource Defense Council, and the Environmental Defense Fund. The negotiations were both challenging and productive. I want to compliment the staff from the Department of Transportation for their constructive and collaborative participation.

The major stakeholders are all in agreement—the substitute amendment is sound public policy. And this week the Commerce Committee also spoke when it unanimously approved the substitute. Senator PRESSLER has produced a real consensus which respects the interests and concerns of all the stakeholders and furthers the safety of America's interstate natural gas lines.

The natural gas industry is important to America and I want to share with my colleagues just a few statistics to explain why the full Senate needs to act on this legislation; First, 160 million Americans live in gas heated buildings; second, \$10 billion is spent annually by America's gas industry for construction that uses enough pipe to almost circle the globe; third, America's natural gas system consists of over 1.2 million miles of pipe or enough to circle the earth 48 times; and fourth, there are over 600,000 Americans working in all aspects of this industry. The numbers speak for themselves—the natural gas industry is big business. It impacts many, and it has a huge presence in America.

I want to be clear; this legislation will codify a limited and targeted risk assessment, cost-benefit regulatory approach. It is consistent with both the Administration's principles and the goals of Congress. The bill's approach is a practical and responsible arrangement and is fully supported by the Office of Pipeline Safety. This legislation will also permit demonstration projects where flexibility from the one-size-fits-all mentality is permitted in a way which mandates that safety and environmental concerns must equal or exceed existing standards. It opens avenues for creativity, but demands strict

accountability. This legislation will fund the Office of Pipeline Safety into the next century.

In response to past criticism, I also want to be clear; this bill does not alter the basic statutory structure for the Federal Government's oversight of the interstate industry. The new steps in the regulatory process will cause neither undue delay nor excessive costs. In fact, they are designed to provide better tools and management indicators for informed rulemaking in the future. This front end analysis will make government oversight more effective and efficient. Also the Secretary of Transportation has specific authority to ensure that the demonstration projects maintain existing safety standards. And finally, the new funding levels reflect the amounts stated by administration officials during the Commerce Committee's hearing.

This bill recognizes that new approaches to pipeline safety are possible without jeopardizing either the public's safety or the environment. It allows sound and the most up-to-date science, as well as common sense and flexibility when standards are established. More importantly, the process codified in this bill will be accomplished by building cooperative consensus through real consultation with all affected parties to avoid lengthy wasteful litigation.

The bottom line displayed by the modified bill, through the good work of Senators PRESSLER, EXON, HUTCHISON, and BREAUX, is that government and industry can produce a genuine natural gas partnership that is good for all Americans. I eagerly look forward to seeing this bipartisan consensus bill considered by the full Senate as soon as possible.

Let me conclude by saying safety on America's interstate natural gas pipelines will be enhanced by this legislation. I also want to underscore that environmental protection along America's pipeline right-of-ways will also be enhanced.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Thursday, June 6, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,139,284,273,926.72.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,392.31 as his or her share of that debt.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:55 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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3562. An act to authorize the State of Wisconsin to implement the demonstration project known as "Wisconsin Works."

The message announced that pursuant to the provisions of section

389(d)(2) of Public Law 104-127, the Speaker appoints the following as members from private life on the part of the House to the Water Rights Task Force: Mr. Robert S. Lynch of Phoenix, AZ, and Mr. Bennett W. Raley of Denver, CO.

MEASURE REFERRED

The following bill, previously received from the House of Representatives for the concurrence of the Senate, was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2160. An act to authorize appropriations to carry out the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986 and the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following measure, previously received from the House of Representatives for the concurrence of the Senate, was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3235. An act to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, to extend the authorization of appropriations for the Office of Government Ethics for three years, and for other purposes.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 3120. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to witness retaliation, witness tampering, and jury tampering.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-574. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the Fourth Olbil Era Kelulau; ordered to lie on the table.

"H.J. RES. NO. 4-112-14

"Whereas, the late U.S. Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown was born in Washington, D.C. on August 1, 1941; and

"Whereas, the late Commerce Secretary Brown was married to Alma Arrington and had two children, Tracey and Michael; and

"Whereas, in 1962, the late Commerce Secretary Brown received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Middlebury College in Vermont; and

"Whereas, from 1963 to 1967, the late Commerce Secretary Brown served in the U.S. Army as a Captain; and

"Whereas, in 1970, the late Commerce Secretary Brown received a Juris Doctor degree from St. John's University School of Law in New York; and

"Whereas, in 1972, the late Commerce Secretary Brown taught Community and Poverty law as a visiting professor at the State University of New York; and

"Whereas, from 1976 to 1979, the late Commerce Secretary Brown worked as the legislative chairman of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; and