

antinarotics programs in Colombia alone. Yet, drug production in Colombia remains high, and the administration could not even certify Colombia as cooperating on antinarotics programs.

Mr. President, the reality is that world production and supply of narcotics vastly exceeds world demand. Even under the best case scenario, global supply reductions are unlikely to have even a minimal effect on our domestic drug problem.

I fully appreciate the sentiments of my colleague from Georgia, and I agree with him. We all understand the destructive power of drugs, and we all want to end the flow of narcotics into the United States. But throwing more and more money at failed solutions simply does not make sense. I urge my colleagues to oppose the Coverdell amendment.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, we have been working very diligently with a number of Senators and the Democratic leader to reach some unanimous consent agreements that are very important for the body. If the Members will give me a few minutes, we can go through a number of these. The time will not count against anyone's time.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time not be taken out of the amendments.

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

HEALTH COVERAGE AVAILABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 1996

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate insist on its amendments with respect to H.R. 3103, the health care reform bill, the Senate agree to the request for a conference with the House, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

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

The Presiding Officer appointed Mr. ROTH, Mrs. KASSEBAUM, Mr. LOTT, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. MOYNIHAN conferees on the part of the Senate.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, before we go to the other unanimous-consent requests, I again want to thank the distinguished Democratic leader for his efforts in this. He has worked very hard to get a medical savings account agreement. Senator KENNEDY has been involved in that. Senator KASSEBAUM has been very helpful in working to get a medical savings account agreement. We did come to an understanding on medical savings accounts, today. Therefore, we now can go forward with appointing conferees to resolve the balance of the issues. I am prepared to give to the Democratic leader the language that we will be working on in conference as soon as we complete these unanimous-consent requests.

Would the Democratic leader like to comment?

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I will have more to say about this later on this evening. But let me just take a moment at this point to thank the distinguished majority leader for the effort that he has put forth over the last couple of weeks in particular. Were it not for the cooperation that we were able to demonstrate on both sides, especially from the majority leader, I do not know that we would be here tonight.

Let me also compliment the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts. No one has been more relentless and more cooperative and more helpful in providing us with ways in which to resolve the many complicated aspects to this negotiated settlement than has the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts. I thank him, as well as the chair of the committee, the distinguished Senator from Kansas.

This has been a very cooperative effort in the last several days. It has taken a lot to get to this point. We are here, and I applaud all of those who had a part to play in it, in particular the majority leader and the Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. LOTT. I yield to the Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to join in commending both the majority leader and the minority leader for giving such support and encouragement towards reaching this important agreement which hopefully will free us to move forward on the underlying issue, which is portability and the elimination of the preexisting condition for millions of Americans. This is legislation that reflected strong bipartisan support under the leadership of Senator KASSEBAUM and the Republicans and Democrats on that committee.

I think this agreement, which includes a real, fair test of some 750,000 policies and other consumer protections, will, I think, provide for a test of this concept. But most importantly, what it will do is move us closer to the day when we can provide for the 25 million Americans that have preexisting conditions and for the millions of Americans who want portability to achieve this goal.

This has been a time where there has been strong views on certain issues. But I think it is a real tribute to both of our leaders and the persistence of Senator KASSEBAUM, as well as the leadership of Mr. ARCHER over in the House of Representatives, that we have been able to move this process forward.

I want to say how much I look forward to working with the majority leader and the other conferees to moving to the conclusion of the conference. But I join others in thanking Senator LOTT and Senator KASSEBAUM—and Senator DASCHLE, who has been such a strong supporter of moving this process forward. I thank them for their very strong support for this conclusion.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate insist on its amendments with respect to H.R. 3448, the small business tax relief package, the Senate then agree to the request for a conference with the House, and the chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

There being no objection, the Presiding Officer (Mr. BENNETT) appointed, from the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, Mrs. KASSEBAUM, Mr. JEFFORDS, and KENNEDY, and from the Committee on Finance, Mr. ROTH, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. PRESSLER, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BRADLEY, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER conferees on the part of the Senate.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, Senator DASCHLE and I have been working with the chairman of the Finance Committee and Senators D'AMATO, MOYNIHAN, and REID, with regard to an issue involved in this conference. And the chairman of the Finance Committee has assured me, Senator D'AMATO, and Senator MOYNIHAN that the language, under this legislation, with regard to electric and gas utilities that are eligible for the two-county local furnishing rule under current law, will not cause them to lose their ability to issue tax-exempt bonds, including their ability to expand service within the counties and the cities they presently serve.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I indicated to both New York Senators my desire to work with the majority leader to ensure that we are able to address their concerns to their satisfaction. I am sure that we can do that, and we will work with the two Senators from New York to make that a part of whatever agreement we reach in conference.

Let me also say that with regard to both conferences, the distinguished majority leader has indicated his desire to make these truly bipartisan conferences. He has given me that assurance on the floor on a number of occasions. He has related and reiterated his determination to make that happen privately to me on many occasions.

So, indeed, my expectation is that in both of these conferences we will have true bipartisanship in an effort to involve every Member of these delegations. That is the reason we appoint both Democrats and Republicans. I am very hopeful that our work can proceed in a way that will allow us to complete the work on these bills sometime in the very near future. Working together, I am quite sure that can happen.

Again, I appreciate his assurances that we will see that bipartisanship through the deliberations of both of these conferences.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I could respond to that. First, the conferees on the welfare reform package did meet today—both parties—and I understand they are going to be meeting again in the morning, to work through the differences between the two bodies.

In the case of health insurance reform, the small business tax relief package, and the minimum wage issue, I do not see any way it could be concluded without bipartisan cooperation. In fact, we would not have been able to appoint these conferees tonight without a lot of cooperation across the aisle in the Senate and the bicameral cooperation on the other side.

When the Congressman from Texas, Mr. ARCHER, and the Senator from Massachusetts, Senator KENNEDY, can get together, I think we all can get together. These conferences will proceed in this bipartisan and bicameral manner.

Mr. KENNEDY. Will the Senator yield for a brief comment?

Mr. LOTT. I am glad to yield.

Mr. KENNEDY. I want to join in thanking both leaders in moving us forward, particularly on the minimum wage. I think all of us understand—there is virtually no difference—that we accept the House provisions on the minimum wage. We will have to make sure that we have a date for enactment in a timely way. I had hoped that we would be able to do that with a 30-day provision in there. We have done it in as short as 23 days in other times when we have had the increase in the minimum wage.

I want to join with Senator DASCHLE and others to say that these workers have waited a long time. And I am very, very hopeful that we can get to the conference and move ahead so that we complete the conference to at least try to make sure that the working families are going to get that raise hopefully by Labor Day or very shortly thereafter.

I thank the majority leader and Senator DASCHLE very much for moving ahead on this program.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent then that the Senate now turn to the consideration of Calendar No. 509, which is H.R. 3845, the District of Columbia appropriations bill.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill (H.R. 3845) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Appropriations, with amendments; as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italic.)

H.R. 3845

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the

Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, namely:

FEDERAL PAYMENT TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

For payment to the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, \$660,000,000, as authorized by section 502(a) of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act, Public Law 93-198, as amended (D.C. Code, Sec. 47-3406.1).

FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION TO RETIREMENT FUNDS

For the Federal contribution to the Police Officers and Fire Fighters', Teachers', and Judges' Retirement Funds, as authorized by the District of Columbia Retirement Reform Act, approved November 17, 1979 (93 Stat. 866; Public Law 96-122), \$52,070,000.

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

For payment to the District of Columbia in lieu of reimbursement for expenses incurred in connection with Presidential inauguration activities, \$5,702,000, as authorized by section 737(b) of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act, Public Law 93-198, as amended (D.C. Code, sec. 1-1803), which shall be apportioned by the Chief Financial Officer within the various appropriation headings in this Act.

DIVISION OF EXPENSES

The following amounts are appropriated for the District of Columbia for the current fiscal year out of the general fund of the District of Columbia, except as otherwise specifically provided.

GOVERNMENTAL DIRECTION AND SUPPORT

Governmental direction and support, \$115,663,000 and 1,440 full-time equivalent positions (including \$98,691,000 and 1,371 full-time equivalent positions from local funds, \$12,192,000 and 8 full-time equivalent positions from Federal funds, and \$4,780,000 and 61 full-time equivalent positions from other funds): *Provided*, [That funds expended for the Executive Office of the Mayor are not to exceed \$1,753,000: *Provided further*,] That not to exceed \$2,500 for the Mayor, \$2,500 for the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, and \$2,500 for the City Administrator shall be available from this appropriation for official purposes: *Provided further*, That any program fees collected from the issuance of debt shall be available for the payment of expenses of the debt management program of the District of Columbia: *Provided further*, That no revenues from Federal sources shall be used to support the operations or activities of the Statehood Commission and Statehood Compact Commission: *Provided further*, That the District of Columbia shall identify the sources of funding for Admission to Statehood from its own locally-generated revenues.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION

Economic development and regulation, \$135,704,000 and 1,501 full-time equivalent positions (including \$67,196,000 and 720 full-time equivalent positions from local funds, \$45,708,000 and 524 full-time equivalent positions from Federal funds, and \$22,800,000 and 257 full-time equivalent positions from other funds): *Provided*, That the District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency, established by section 201 of the District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency Act, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-135; D.C. Code, sec. 45-2111), based upon its capability of repayments as determined each year by the Council of the District of Columbia from the Housing Finance Agency's annual audited financial statements to the Council of the District of Columbia, shall repay to the general fund an

amount equal to the appropriated administrative costs plus interest at a rate of four percent per annum for a term of 15 years, with a deferral of payments for the first three years [*Provided further*, That notwithstanding the foregoing provision, the obligation to repay all or part of the amounts due shall be subject to the rights of the owners of any bonds or notes issued by the Housing Finance Agency and shall be repaid to the District of Columbia government only from available operating revenues of the Housing Finance Agency that are in excess of the amounts required for debt service, reserve funds, and operating expenses]: *Provided further*, That upon commencement of the debt service payments, such payments shall be deposited into the general fund of the District of Columbia.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Public safety and justice, including purchase of 135 passenger-carrying vehicles for replacement only, including 130 for police-type use and five for fire-type use, without regard to the general purchase price limitation for the current fiscal year, \$1,041,281,000 and 11,842 full-time equivalent positions (including \$1,012,112,000 and 11,726 full-time equivalent positions from local funds, \$19,310,000 and 112 full-time equivalent positions from Federal funds, and \$9,859,000 and 4 full-time equivalent positions from other funds): *Provided*, That the Metropolitan Police Department is authorized to replace not to exceed 25 passenger-carrying vehicles and the Fire Department of the District of Columbia is authorized to replace not to exceed five passenger-carrying vehicles annually whenever the cost of repair to any damaged vehicle exceeds three-fourths of the cost of the replacement: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$500,000 shall be available from this appropriation for the Chief of Police for the prevention and detection of crime: *Provided further*, That the Metropolitan Police Department shall provide quarterly reports to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate on efforts to increase efficiency and improve the professionalism in the department: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, or Mayor's Order 86-45, issued March 18, 1986, the Metropolitan Police Department's delegated small purchase authority shall be \$500,000: *Provided further*, That the District of Columbia government may not require the Metropolitan Police Department to submit to any other procurement review process, or to obtain the approval of or be restricted in any manner by any official or employee of the District of Columbia government, for purchases that do not exceed \$500,000: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated for expenses under the District of Columbia Criminal Justice Act, approved September 3, 1974 (88 Stat. 1090; Public Law 93-412; D.C. Code, sec. 11-2601 et seq.), for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, shall be available for obligations incurred under the Act in each fiscal year since inception in fiscal year 1975: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated for expenses under the District of Columbia Neglect Representation Equity Act of 1984, effective March 13, 1985 (D.C. Law 5-129; D.C. Code, sec. 16-2304), for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, shall be available for obligations incurred under the Act in each fiscal year since inception in fiscal year 1985: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated for expenses under the District of Columbia Guardianship, Protective Proceedings, and Durable Power of Attorney Act of 1986, effective February 27, 1987 (D.C. Law 6-204; D.C. Code, sec. 21-2060), for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, shall be available for obligations incurred under the Act in each fiscal year since inception in fiscal year 1989: