

have raised questions about an investment in education, but it is all done within the framework of an excess \$2.6 billion. This is a debate about priorities, it is not a debate about who is for a strong defense.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, since there is no other Senator wishing to speak right now, let me say a word about the procedure that we seem to be agreed upon of having a cloture vote this afternoon at 3 o'clock. I know the majority leader has requested unanimous consent to do that and has been granted unanimous consent to do that. I certainly did not object. But I have to say, Mr. President, that the procedures in the Senate, as is said in Alice in Wonderland, get curiously and curiously. Having a cloture vote at this stage in our deliberations on this Defense authorization bill seems to me the most curious of any procedure I can recall.

We are, as I understand it, being advised by the leadership, the majority leadership, Senator LOTT, that we do not want any votes on this bill until at least 6 o'clock tomorrow evening when the absent Members who are in Madrid with the President attending the meeting on NATO return. I understand that is a very important meeting, and I certainly commend them for being there to attend that. I do not object to postponing votes on this important defense authorization bill until they return.

But for us to be, on one hand, being told that we should not vote because Members are absent and, on the other hand, being told that we should invoke cloture because someone is delaying the Senate in concluding action on this bill, the only people delaying the Senate in concluding action are the absent Senators or the leadership in trying to protect them from votes. So I have great difficulty understanding why we are having this cloture vote today.

Obviously, if that is the majority leader's will or desire, he has that right under Senate rules. But for people who try to understand the proceedings around the Senate, I think they need to understand that invoking cloture does cut off debate. That is the purpose of it. It limits the number of amendments each Senator can offer. It limits the length of time each Senator can speak. It prevents us from seriously considering legitimate proposals that may be made to improve or alter this bill.

So I think it would be a big mistake for us to invoke cloture. As I said in my early comment, I think it is really very confusing to this Senator to un-

derstand why we are having the vote at all. I hope that the majority leader will reconsider and vitiate the yeas and nays and put off any votes on cloture until such time as there is some evidence at least that some Senator is trying to delay action on the bill. I see no evidence of that at the present time. I think all of the Senators who have come to the floor this morning to offer amendments have had those amendments set aside because of their agreement with the majority leader's position that we should postpone votes until tomorrow evening after our colleagues return from Madrid.

Mr. President, I wanted to make that statement because I have great difficulty understanding myself the procedure that is being followed.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The 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.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the cloture vote scheduled for today will occur at 3 p.m. It is my hope that cloture will be invoked so that the Senate can complete action on this very important Department of Defense authorization bill this week.

It is my understanding that perhaps as many as 150 first-degree amendments have been filed to the bill. Needless to say, there remains a tremendous amount of work to be done in order to complete action this week.

SENATOR ENZI RECEIVES GOLDEN GAVEL AWARD

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today, the Senate pauses to recognize a colleague who has now presided over the Senate for 100 hours during this session of Congress. It has been a longstanding tradition in the U.S. Senate to honor those Senators who preside 100 hours in a single session. To those individuals who achieve this height, we bestow the Golden Gavel Award.

While many Senators have won this prestigious honor, few have done so as swiftly as Senator MIKE ENZI of Wyoming. Indeed, Senator ENZI has surpassed all other records that have been set by Republican Senators in the history of the Golden Gavel Award. Today he completes his 100th presiding hour. The Senate has been in session this year for approximately 615 hours, and the freshman Senator from Wyoming, as Presiding Officer, has filled 100 of those hours with matchless enthusiasm and dedication.

So, on behalf of my colleagues, I extend my congratulations to the first Golden Gavel recipient of the 105th Congress, Senator MIKE ENZI, who is presiding at this time.

Congratulations, Senator ENZI. Thank you for all the time that you have spent in the chair. The week before the Fourth of July recess period I had noted what an excellent job you had been doing as a Presiding Officer, having been in the chair late, I think it was, on Thursday night and back in the chair through a long, extended period of time on Friday morning.

We appreciate your good work. Now that you have reached this milestone, we hope you will continue on. You are doing such a good job we will just keep this pattern going in the future.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, Senators should be on notice that the Senate will begin having rollcall votes on Mondays and Fridays in order to make substantial progress on appropriations bills prior to the August recess. I have discussed this with the Democratic leader. He understands and agrees we should be prepared to have these votes on Mondays and Fridays so that we can make substantial progress on appropriations bills.

We hope to do a minimum of five appropriations bills as well as the balanced budget and the tax fairness conference reports before the Senate adjourns for the August recess.

Consequently, Senators need to be aware that votes should be anticipated on Mondays and Fridays, at least up until noon on Fridays. We will need the cooperation of all Senators.

We also, of course, could have some Executive Calendar nominations that would be required to either get clearance or to actually have them called up and have votes on them. We will be providing more information on that as the week goes forward.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m. today.

Thereupon, at 12:38 p.m., the Senate recessed until 2:15 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. HAGEL).

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there now be a period for morning business during which Senators may speak for up to 5 minutes each, lasting until the hour of 3 p.m.

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

HONORING THE GIBSONS ON THEIR 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, families are the cornerstone of America. The data are undeniable: Individuals from strong families contribute to the society. In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "till death us do part" seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity. These characteristics make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Clarence and Rena Gibson of Independence, Missouri, who on August 7, 1997, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. The Gibsons' commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized.

MICHIGAN TRAGEDIES

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, late on Wednesday, July 2, the State of Michigan was the recipient of an uninvited guest for the holiday weekend: Namely, a series of intense thunderstorms which ripped through the south-central and south-eastern portions of our State.

Heavy rains, accompanied by 13 confirmed tornado touchdowns, and powerful straight line winds in excess of 70 to 100 miles per hour caused extensive damage, injury and some deaths in our State. I have had the chance since then to tour a number of the damaged sites in our State, and I know that Senator LEVIN has likewise been visiting some of these communities. I can attest to the level of destruction which has taken place in Michigan.

Just to put some statistics to the descriptions, all told we had 13 people who were killed as a result of the storms, approximately 117 others as of this morning who were injured, and some 1,482 people are homeless today as a result of the storm. Public damage estimates at this point are now close to \$135 million, and are expected to rise.

To put it in even a more personal perspective, in Grosse Pointe Farms, MI, winds in excess of 75 miles per hour caused the collapse of an occupied picnic pavilion gazebo. It actually swept the gazebo across the park, lifted it and those in it through a fence and into Lake St. Clair. Five people, including several very young children, were killed as a result. In Wayne and Macomb, Counties, flooding caused by the intense rainfalls resulted in nearly 52 million dollars' worth of damage to the public water and sewer systems. In the city of Detroit, the headquarters of Focus:HOPE, a volunteer organization

that feeds over 50,000 people a month in Michigan, sustained \$10 million in damages when a tornado tore the roof off several of its buildings and blew out dozens of windows. In the city of Hamtramck, another community I visited, the scene was reminiscent of a Hollywood set, with cars up-ended, houses destroyed, and roofs ripped off buildings. It was an incredible act of nature which, at one point, left approximately 325,000 people in our State without power.

I appear today, really, just to give the Senate an update. Michigan is a resilient place and the people in all of these communities have risen to this challenge. People have been volunteering, helping neighbors, and coming from all over our State to lend a hand in places such as Chesaning, a city in Saginaw County, and in Genesee, Wayne, Macomb and Oakland Counties. I am very proud of those people, Mr. President. I appear today to thank all of those who have stepped up to this challenge.

Government officials, led by our Governor John Engler, Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer, Mayor Kozaren of Hamtramck, Mayor Danaher of Grosse Pointe Farms, Supervisor Kirsh of Washington Township, Supervisor DePalma of Groveland Township, Supervisor Walls of Springfield Township, Mayor Jester of East Lansing, Supervisor Miesle of Cohoctah Township, Supervisor Kingsley of Conway Township, Supervisor Wendling of Maple Grove Township, Village President Mahoney of Chesaning and numerous other local officials have pulled together the State and local resource teams to get out and help distressed folks. The Michigan State emergency personnel, the State police, and FEMA have already begun the public damage assessments and they have been stalwarts in addressing these problems. I want to commend them, but I especially want to commend the volunteers from all over our State who have joined together to provide these first few days the kind of neighbor-to-neighbor help that truly makes the difference when crises of this type occur.

Our office is very actively involved, along with the other congressional offices, in trying to provide assistance. We have made it clear to those in need, if there is anything we can do we will be there to help. We also intend to continue the efforts to work with our State and with FEMA to provide whatever assistance we can, and if a decision to seek Federal aid is made, certainly I urge the President to move quickly to approve it. My wife, today, in fact, is in the State working with the Red Cross in a number of the shelters that have been provided. People from our staff and other congressional staffs, I know, are likewise performing various volunteer services.

So, Mr. President, I want to send a heartfelt thanks to those in our State who have donated their time and energy. To the families of those who have

lost loved ones, we send our prayers and condolences. And to the many others who have been affected by this, we want you to know that people are committed to working to do everything we can to return things to normal and to overcome this tragedy. It was an incredible storm, but Michigan is an incredible State, and I know we will successfully rebuild and put things back on track in a very short period of time. I yield the floor.

ARE POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS VOLUNTARY?

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, on behalf of Mr. David Stewart and millions of workers like him, who hold their political freedoms in this country in the highest regard, I send the June 25, 1997 Rules Committee testimony of Mr. David Stewart of Owasso, Oklahoma to the desk and ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the testimony was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

TESTIMONY OF DAVID STEWART, TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA-LOCAL 514, REGARDING SENATE BILL S. 9, THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION ACT

My name is David Stewart, I am a member of the Transport Workers Union of America, Local 514 located in Tulsa, Oklahoma. I am here today to support changes in legislation that will protect the hard earned money of myself, and my co-workers. We are tired of funding political agendas and/or candidates that we do not endorse or vote for. I want to first make the point that I am not anti-union, I have received decent wages and benefits as a result of my membership with the T.W.U. and believe that union membership is beneficial and would recommend that all working men and women of the United States join in a union.

Let me submit a brief overview of my history in Organized Labor. I became a union member (Transport Workers Union of America) in September 1983, when I was hired as a welder at American Airlines Inc. I was very interested in the affairs of the union and attended all union meetings and quickly became a Shop Steward around December 1983. As my interest continued, I was offered Labor Study classes in the evenings at Tulsa Junior College in 1984. I accepted and attended the following courses: History, Organization, and Functions of Unions, Labor and Politics, Labor Laws, and Grievance Handling and Arbitration.

In 1985-86 I was elected Vice-President of the Northeastern Oklahoma Labor Council. This was a very short lived position as I am the father of three boys and the time needed to perform these duties conflicted with my requirements as a father and resigned this position after about eight months. In any event, my involvement with the union continued as a member. I continued my duties as Shop Steward and was very involved with the Political Wing of the Union. This Political Wing has a "sign factory" behind the Union Hall where volunteers print, assemble, and distribute yard signs for political campaigns. I spent many hours in this building learning of political issues and candidates that the union supported.

In 1991, I transferred to a newly created local in Fort Worth, Texas. As I spent time away from Tulsa and the strong political wing of the Tulsa local union, my personal