

Mr. REID. Under my reservation, Mr. President, I also say we have worked very closely with Senator BAUCUS and Senator MOYNIHAN in trying to come up with an alternative, and some other matters that we believe should be brought up with this piece of legislation.

For example, in 1992, under a tax bill that came before the Senate, we, on the 25th, started considering that. We had 105 amendments, and a day and a half later it was all done. That legislation was totally passed. We had a number of amendments that were even offered by our majority leader on that important legislation. There was a wide range of amendments offered dealing with dental schools, tractors, and all kinds of things.

So we can work out a way through this. I think the proposal by the minority that we take up six amendments, with time limits, is something the majority leader should take another look at.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now withdraw the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 10, 2000

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 1 p.m. on Monday, July 10, under the provisions of S. Con. Res. 125. I further ask that on Monday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that then the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4578.

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

ORDER FOR RECORD TO REMAIN OPEN

Mr. LOTT. Further, I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD remain open until 3:30 p.m. today for the submission of statements.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. For the information of all Senators, on Monday, July 10, the Senate will begin consideration of the Interior appropriations bill. We will be looking forward to having the Presiding Officer on the floor managing that important legislation. I am sure it will move expeditiously. Opening statements will be made and amendments will be offered during the day. Senators who intend to offer amendments are

encouraged to contact the bill managers during the recess in preparation for consideration of the bill. Senators should be aware that the next rollcall vote will occur on Monday, July 10, at approximately 5:30 p.m.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LOTT. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment under the provisions of S. Con. Res. 125, following the remarks of Senators BYRD, WARNER, and LEVIN.

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

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. WARNER. Before our distinguished leader departs the floor—momentarily I will propound a unanimous consent request which takes us another step forward in the authorization bill for the Armed Forces—I wish to thank the distinguished leader and, indeed, the minority leader for their tireless assistance, and that of Senator REID, and of course, Senator LEVIN. They have enabled us to move this another important step forward. I thank them on that.

VITIATION OF THE ADOPTION OF AMENDMENT NOS. 3231 AND 3418

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the adoption of amendment Nos. 3231 and 3418 of the Defense authorization bill be vitiated.

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

Mr. WARNER. To explain this, these were two gold medals. Unintentionally, the proponents of those amendments did not recognize that the Banking Committee had an important role to play. Both proponents are now working with the chairman and ranking member of the Banking Committee. In the case of Senator CLELAND, he has over 68 signatures on a gold medal for the distinguished former NATO Supreme Allied Commander, General Clark, including the signature of the Senators from Virginia and from Michigan. That request has been granted?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It has.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2549

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the only first-degree amendments remaining in order to the Department of Defense authorization bill, S. 2549, be limited to amendments that are relevant to the provisions of the bill and on the finite list of amendments in order to the bill, that these first-degree amendments be subject to relevant second-degree

amendments, provided further that the first-degree amendments must be filed at the desk by close of business Friday, June 30, 2000.

I further ask unanimous consent that it be in order for the two managers to send to the desk any packages of amendments that are relevant and from the finite list of amendments in order to the bill and that these amendments be cleared by both managers of the legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, we do not object. Quite the contrary; we thank the distinguished chairman of our committee and the leaders, both majority and minority, for their good work, and also Senator REID, who has worked so hard on this, and all the other Senators who have cooperated to make this unanimous consent agreement possible. I also thank Senator BYRD, who has been waiting very patiently, so we could dispose of this important measure.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, we thank Senator BYRD. He has been an integral part of these negotiations, together with Senator ROTH and others. I am hopeful that matter can be resolved in the future.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the unanimous consent request? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank my distinguished colleague, Senator LEVIN, who has worked with me throughout on this bill. For 22 years we have been together, and our respective chiefs of staff. It has been entirely separate, but we have achieved another milestone. Now it appears to me that we will be able to come to the Senate at a time convenient to our leadership and complete action on the annual Defense authorization bill. I believe this will be 42 consecutive times the Senate has passed this wide piece of legislation for the men and women in the Armed Forces and, indeed, the security of the Nation. I yield the floor.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I notice our staffs are smiling as well because this has been a big effort on their part. With all the years we have put in together, we will not be able to catch up to Senator BYRD, but we are going to keep using him as our role model.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the chairman and ranking member of the Armed Services Committee for the excellent work they have consistently given to this legislation, the many times they have brought it to the floor of the Senate. The distinguished Senator from Virginia, Mr. WARNER, and I worked together on several amendments. I am always happy to have his cooperation and his cosponsorship. He is a man whose heart is as stout as an Irish oak and as pure as the Lakes of Killarney.

As to the distinguished ranking member, the Bible says: Seest thou a

man diligent in his business? He shall stand before Kings. Senator LEVIN has already stood before Kings and will probably stand before more if there are any left.

Mr. WARNER. We thank our distinguished former majority leader and a member of the Armed Services Committee for his kind remarks.

Mr. BYRD. I thank both of my colleagues.

THE FOURTH OF JULY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, in a few short days, our Nation will celebrate for the 224th time the signing of the Declaration of Independence. For some, the occasion will take on an unwarranted special significance because there are people who have been led to believe—in some cases misled, I would say—that this is the first Independence Day of the new millennium. For them, the celebration requires extra fanfare, even more spectacular displays of fireworks, and an even bigger party, akin to the gala bashes of last New Year's Eve. However, in reality, the millennial Independence Day celebration coincides with the 225th anniversary of the signing next year, in 2001. So I, at least, will reserve my extra sparklers and Roman candles for next year.

I will not, however, let any confusion over the new century/new millennium stand in the way of one of my favorite holidays. The Fourth of July is a standout. It is one of the few holidays still celebrated on the actual anniversary of the day, as opposed to being appended to a weekend for convenience's sake. Though sales may beckon from nearby shopping malls, the holiday is not obscured beneath any major sporting event.

There are no 4th of July college football championships, no basketball finals, no baseball World Series games to divide families into the camps of the spectators and the ignored. The 4th of July is instead, typically, celebrated by families and friends in the great beauty of the outdoors.

Some years, the weather is perfect, with blue skies, moderate temperatures and low humidity, when the American flags are fanned by gentle breezes—the kind of a day that fills me with a sense of exhilaration and anticipation. Other years, the weather is almost unbearably hot and sticky, the flag hangs limply from the pole, and sun screen mingles with sweat to turn picnickers into melting human popsicles. But even these sweltering days can be relieved by mimicking childrens' refreshing runs through a water sprinkler arcing manmade rainbows across the yard, or by dousing the heat with gallons of tart lemonade and sweet watermelon chilled in a tub of ice. On summer days like these, people still resort to rocking chairs on porches and paper fans waved lazily before faces, much as they did when I was a boy in the days before air conditioning.

The highlight of the day, is, of course, the fireworks. My favorite time

of this holiday comes as the temperatures cool and the skies darken, and the fireflies' display hints of the light show to come. I cannot wait to see my little great-granddaughter Caroline's expression as she is presented with the mysteries of smoke worms, sparklers, and Roman candles. I hope that she will not be so afraid of the explosive booms of the big fireworks that she cannot enjoy the fiery display, the cascades of red, blue, green, and golden sparks drifting down over our heads.

It is alright for her to be afraid, of course. After all, those fireworks, so festive now, recall the great battles fought by our young nation to gain its independence from mighty Britain. Two-hundred and twenty-four years ago, on a similar hot summer night, little Caroline's patriotic forbearers might have feared for their lives as the cannons boomed and the flintlocks cracked. The parades we watch today are a faint reminder of the lines of troops that may have tramped with grim faces through colonial towns on their way to battle with the redcoats. So it is, perhaps, good to be a little afraid when watching 4th of July fireworks. It may be the closest many of our children come to reliving this important time in the history of our Republic.

Probably most children watching 4th of July fireworks do not fully understand the link between the holiday and this day in our nation's past. That our children know little about history is not news. Poll after poll in recent years has alerted us to huge gaps in historical knowledge among our nation's schoolchildren. Once again, a recent test of young peoples' knowledge of history, in this case, the history of our own nation, has demonstrated a sorry—and if I may add—scandalous ignorance. What is disconcerting about this most recent report is that it reflects the knowledge base of college seniors from some of the best colleges and universities in the nation, not younger children with many years of learning still ahead of them. If those who do not learn from history are truly doomed to repeat it, then I shudder to think how much our future might resemble that silly movie, "Groundhog Day."

The test, sponsored by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, and administered by the University of Connecticut, consisted of asking college seniors at 55 top colleges and universities some 34 questions from a high school-level American history test. I was very sorry to read that nearly 80 percent of those tested earned only a "D" or an "F." A mere 23 percent could identify James Madison as the principal framer of the Constitution. More than a third did not know that the Constitution established the division of powers in American government. Just 60 percent could correctly select the 50-year period in which the Civil War occurred.

Imagine that. Just 60 percent could correctly select—in other words, 40 per-

cent could not correctly select—the 50-year period in which the Civil War occurred—not the correct years, or even the correct decade, but the correct half century! A scant 35 percent could correctly name the President in office at the start of the Korean War. It was, for the record, President Truman.

But, 99 percent of these college seniors correctly identified Beavis and Butthead as television cartoon characters. That is a sorry commentary, indeed. Years of experts advising parents to limit and monitor their children's time in front of the television, and to encourage their children to stretch their minds by reading or their muscles by playing outdoors, have come to this—a nation of increasingly overweight children who spend increasing numbers of hours watching moronic and scatological so-called humor on television and who do not learn the history behind some of the most fundamental tenets underlying our system of government. It is a disgrace—a colossal disgrace. Perhaps we should attempt to restrict books and learning, in order to make them more desirable "forbidden fruits" in our children's eyes.

I do not want to put the blame for this sad state of affairs entirely on parents or even on our lowest-common-denominator-seeking entertainment industry. Another recent review, this time, of high school textbooks by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, slammed biology and science textbooks, in particular, as missing the big picture behind the four basic ideas driving today's cutting edge research. Not one of the two dozen biology texts reviewed by the group, which are aimed at grades 9–12, were considered excellent or satisfactory. Other reviews in the past of history books have illustrated similar deficiencies. I fear that we are nowhere close to answering the century-plus old prayer by Charles Kingsley—"I hope that my children, at least, if not I myself, will see the day when ignorance of the primary laws and facts of science will be looked upon as a defect only second to ignorance of the primary laws of religion and morality." We are, instead, closer to fulfilling the prediction by Robert A. Heinlein that "A generation which ignores history has no past—and no future."

In light of this dismal knowledge of our national history, I have today offered an amendment to the Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill to provide \$50 million—just a little seed corn—to the Secretary of Education to award grants to states to develop, implement, and strengthen programs that teach American history as a separate subject within school curricula.

It doesn't mean social studies. That is about all they have today. Some people look upon social studies and claim that is history. I have nothing against social studies, except it is not history. What I am suggesting here by way of this \$50 million amendment is that the