

better in helping large school districts such as Las Vegas. Also, we have schools in Nevada that are one-room schools. I went to school in a two-room school. There are schools in Nevada today that have one room, with five or six students. They also have to be part of what we are trying to do to improve education. Millions of children across the country may not realize it, but their parents and friends realize, and we realize, that there is nothing more important in their lives than to be educated.

So it is with fitting coincidence that the change in the leadership in the United States Senate occurs at the very time we are debating the education bill. Whether you are a Republican, or a Democrat, or an Independent, education is a nonpartisan issue. It should be a nonpartisan issue. If it is partisan, it is too bad. The education bill is an example of what Senators can accomplish when we work for the good of the country in a nonpartisan manner, joining together to ensure that every student has a chance to succeed. This bill is a true example of a nonpartisan success story. We hope it ends successfully this week. It began as the President's bill, was honestly and openly debated under Senator LOTT and the Republican majority, and now it will be completed under the leadership of Senator DASCHLE and the Democratic majority.

We all have to work together. I work together with my Republican colleague from Nevada, JOHN ENSIGN, in a way that I hope will serve as a model for the rest of this Chamber. In 1998, JOHN ENSIGN and I were involved in a historically close race. I won by 428 votes. People thought that JOHN ENSIGN—when Senator Bryan retired and he ran for the Senate—and I would be in a very bitter relationship here in the Senate. But we decided for our own well-being, for the well-being of the State of Nevada, and for this country, that we should join together and show people that Democrats and Republicans from States evenly divided as ours is—no matter how the State is divided—can work together to set an example. JOHN and I don't have to vote alike on everything, but we can work together so that we have a harmonious relationship. We are doing that. We are going to get better. We are pretty good now, but we are going to get better.

We have sent the President the judges that JOHN ENSIGN nominated, and I say "we" because I appreciate JOHN ENSIGN submitting those names to me. He has agreed to give me 25 percent of the judges we get in Nevada. I told him that is one more than I deserve. I appreciate that. It is an act of generosity on his part and also an act that depicts our relationship. So the mere fact that people have bitter battles on this floor does not mean they can't work together tomorrow for the common good.

So I believe that from the 240,000 students in Clark County to the one-room

schoolhouse in Nye County, all students deserve a quality education. We need to work together to finish this bill in a nonpartisan way for the children of Nevada. If we get in here in the next couple of days and there are difficult issues we have to resolve, we have to understand that we can take these issue by issue.

The overall responsibility we have is to come up with a good education bill. Now, I am personally disappointed that we are not going to have as much money as I think we should. We have to work with the tools we have, and we are going to do that. The education bill is legislation about which each Member of this Chamber should leave feeling good about. So it is my hope and that of Majority Leader DASCHLE that this legislation is the first of many written not by one party, but by Republicans and Democrats.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed using as much time as I may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAYTON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EDUCATION

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, later this afternoon we will turn to the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

I wish to take just a couple of minutes to talk about a couple of amendments to the education bill that I have offered with colleagues. These amendments have not yet been voted on but I expect both will be approved.

Education is very important. I am pleased it appears we will now finish this bill. This Congress has a responsibility to address the issue of education in a thoughtful way. We understand there are plenty of challenges in our educational system. We have schools that don't do as well as we would like. At the same time, I want to be sure to say there are a lot of wonderful schools in this country and a lot of great teachers who are educating our children.

More Americans have completed a high school education today than at any other time in history. At a time when we talk about the deficiencies in education, 84 percent of the American people are now completing a high school education. In France, only 52 percent of adults have a high school education. In the United Kingdom, 68 percent. In Japan, 70 percent.

With respect to virtually every aspect of life in this country, one can take something and hold it to a light and say, isn't this ugly, and one can find a perfection that is ugly. But generally with respect to education, I ask this question: If public education in this country has not worked, how is it we have reached this position in our lives? The United States has done so much for so many over so long a period of time. The progress that has been made is remarkable.

I came to the Congress many years ago to initially serve in the House of Representatives. I have told my colleagues a story about going into the office of the oldest Member of the House at the time named Claude Pepper, a great public servant. He was then in his eighties, and his office was virtually a museum of posters and photographs. Two pictures in particular that were hanging behind his desk in his office stuck out to me. One was a picture of Orville and Wilbur Wright making the first airplane flight. It was autographed to Congressman Claude Pepper by Orville Wright before he died. It was autographed to Claude Pepper: With deep admiration, signed Orville Wright. Beneath that picture was a picture of Neil Armstrong stepping on the Moon, and it was autographed by Neil Armstrong to Congressman Claude Pepper.

I was struck by that. Here are two pictures: Of the first Americans to fly and then the first American to fly to the Moon. I thought about the relatively short timeframe that is represented by those pictures. What a breathtaking advance in technology and learning that allowed us to build aircraft that not only left the ground in airplanes that were primitive, but also flew all the way to the Moon for a lunar landing.

What is that about? It is about education. We achieved these advancements in America's classrooms. Those young scientists and engineers and mathematicians, the young talents all across this country, starting 1st grade someplace, went through high school, and went to college. They created progress in so many areas. Yes, in space, but also in medicine and so many areas this country has progressed.

Education is critically important. I wanted to say it at the front end. Those who somehow criticize our public educational system as a system that has failed America, in my judgment, are dreadfully wrong. This public system of education has empowered every young child in this country to be the best he or she can be. We have challenges, no doubt about it, and we should deal with those challenges.

I propose a couple of things to deal with some challenges. I propose we have school report cards. Every young person in school occasionally comes home with a report card; that child's school and the teachers evaluate how students are doing and they grade them and give them a report card. Parents and taxpayers get no such report card that evaluates how the school is doing. What is their tax money buying? What is the level of achievement of that school? What kind of progress are those students making? How effective is this school at promoting learning among its students?

My proposal is to give parents a school report card that provides the opportunity to understand how a school is doing versus a neighboring school, how a school in this county is doing

versus schools in another county, or how schools in this State compare to those in another State, so parents and taxpayers can hold a school accountable.

We need a school report card that is reasonably standardized across the country. Thirty-seven States have created school report cards, but the content varies widely and most parents have never ever seen one. I think we ought to be about the business of asking for report cards on the progress of our schools. I understand the report card language has been included as part of the underlying Manager's amendment, and I think that provision will represent some progress.

The second amendment I offer with my colleague, Senator ENZI from Wyoming, who will be here later today, is an amendment that talks about establishing technology academies in the public school system. I am not talking about setting up separate buildings. I am talking about providing some assistance to allow public schools that want to offer an in-depth curriculum in technology to do so. Those young students who are adept at technology and want to pursue technology-related careers can, through a technology academy curriculum, come out of that school system with a much stronger background and be able to fill some of the jobs that go wanting in this country.

Last year we had a debate about increasing the number of H-1B visas to meet our country's need for technology workers. Why do we need people coming into this country from other countries to perform that work? Because our schools are not producing the right kind of trained individuals in sufficient quantity to eliminate the need for the H-1B visas. So I supported those new visas. But it seems to me a smart thing for us to do is to strengthen the depth and breadth of the technology curriculum in those schools that want to do that. That allows those students who want to go into a technology job to be prepared for the future.

Technology, obviously, is very important. The increase in information technology and telecommunications, the breathtaking advances in those fields, are quite remarkable. I come from a State that is a rural State. In the past, we have always been far from markets and therefore disadvantaged. But with information technology, with one click of a mouse, North Dakota is as close to the Hudson River as Manhattan. Distance is dead.

If distance is dead, opportunity is born, especially if you come from a rural State. And if that is the case, then let us develop technology academies through the incentive I would provide in this amendment with my colleague, Senator ENZI, to allow public schools to strengthen their curriculum in technology. Those students who want to move in that direction and fill those jobs that are now going unfilled ought to have that oppor-

tunity by coming out of our school system much better prepared to do so.

Those are two amendments I will be offering. My understanding is the first will be accepted as part of the underlying Manager's amendment, and the second will be adopted by a voice vote. I appreciate that. I think both of them will improve this bill.

Let me also say my colleague, Senator ENZI, will, I believe, come to the floor to speak about the technology academy amendment at some later point in the debate.

Finally, let me say this. Thomas Jefferson, in a famous quote, said about education:

Those who believe that a country can be both ignorant and free believe in that which never was and never can be.

Education is critical to the success of this country and its future. Education is just critical. It is the root of virtually everything else, the seedbed for progress in every other area. If we talk about defense, talk about social progress—everything we talk about has its roots in education. The issue of education is not complex. Education works when you have three elements: A teacher who understands how to teach, a student who wants to learn, and a parent involved in that student's education. When all those are present, education works, and works very well.

When it works well and where it works well, which is in many school districts across our country, I am enormously proud of what we are doing. I have sat in schoolrooms with dirt floors in the country of Haiti, for example, where a very small percentage of the children are getting educated in a very primitive way. I have sat in schoolrooms across the world in other countries, and wondered why these children will not have the opportunity they should have.

But I have also visited many classrooms in our country, and I would say from those experiences that I am enormously proud of what we have done. I am proud this country is the country that says every young child, regardless of origin, regardless of parentage, regardless of how much money they might have, is going to have an opportunity to be everything he or she can be. That is the way our school system works. That is not true in some other countries. Some countries pare the children down very quickly and send them down different routes and different paths, saying to some, you are not eligible to be on the path going towards college, you are going to go somewhere else. That is not the way we do things in our country. In our country, every young child sees that flame of opportunity that beckons: You can do it.

I spoke at a college commencement ceremony this weekend with hundreds and hundreds of graduates. I looked out at those graduates who came from every corner, every conceivable background. Every single one who was announced was accompanied by a hoot, a

howl, a hurrah, and a yeah from the audience because those families understood this is a big day and big achievement. So, too, is education success for our country. That is why I am pleased we are going to finish this bill and very pleased the two amendments I have offered will be included.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 3 minutes to speak in morning business.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield, we are in morning business until 2:30, so if he needs a few minutes after 2:30?

Mr. ALLARD. No, I just need 2 minutes now. I thought I might be encroaching on time set aside for the Democrats.

Mr. REID. You have, on your own, 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado is recognized.

THE COLORADO AVALANCHE BRING HOME THE CUP

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Colorado Avalanche for bringing the Stanley Cup back to Colorado. With a 3-1 victory in game 7 of the Stanley Cup Finals on Saturday night over the defending world champion New Jersey Devils, the Colorado Avalanche are champions once again. The Avalanche won their first cup in 1996 after arriving in Denver from Quebec.

The tough game seven victory capped an incredible season for the Avalanche. They won the President's Trophy which is awarded to the team with the most points at the end of the regular season. Captain Joe Sakic lead the way by having an MVP type season with 118 points and 54 goals. He scored another 13 goals in the playoffs to lead everyone in that category. With 52 wins in the regular season and securing home ice throughout the playoffs, the Avalanche started their long march towards the cup.

After a first-round sweep of the Vancouver Canucks, the Avs faced the Los Angeles Kings which proved to be their toughest task aside from the finals. It took a 5-1 victory in game 7 of the Western Conference semi-finals to get to the Conference finals against the St. Louis Blues. With the scare of losing to Los Angeles behind them, the Avalanche came together in the Conference Finals and rolled over the St. Louis Blues in five games. The next hurdle would prove to be their toughest. The Colorado Avalanche had to face the defending champion New Jersey Devils to whom they had lost twice in the regular season.

Head Coach Bob Hartley had his Avalanche hitting on all cylinders in the first game of the Stanley Cup Finals and defeated the Devils 5-0. That would