

offered or a conference report thereon is submitted, that would increase funding for defense or education, the chairman of the appropriate Committee on the Budget shall revise the aggregates, functional totals, allocations, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for that measure by not exceeding the amount resulting from the repeal and amendments made by section ____ (a) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2001 for fiscal years 2001 and 2002, as long as that measure will not, when taken together with all other previously enacted legislation, reduce the on-budget surplus below the level of the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund surplus in any fiscal year provided in this resolution."

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be set aside.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 874

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk for Senator WELLSTONE under the authorized list.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for Mr. WELLSTONE, proposes an amendment numbered 874.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To increase funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, with an offset)

On page 11, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

(RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 1207. (a)(1) Effective July 31, 2001, of the funds provided to the Secretary of Defense, for fiscal year 2001 administrative expenses, under the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2001, the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2001, and the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2001, and remaining in Federal appropriations accounts, an amount equal to \$150,000,000 is rescinded.

(2) Such amount shall be rescinded from such Federal appropriations accounts as the Secretary of Defense shall specify before July 31, 2001. In determining the accounts to specify, the Secretary of Defense shall take into consideration the need to promote efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and productivity within the Department of Defense, as well as to maintain readiness and troop quality of life.

(b) Effective August 1, 2001, if the Secretary of Defense has not specified accounts for rescissions under subsection (a), of the funds described in subsection (a)(1) and remaining in Federal appropriations accounts, an amount equal to \$150,000,000 is rescinded through proportional reductions to the portions of such accounts that contain such funds.

On page 36, line 9, strike "\$300,000,000" and insert "\$450,000,000".

AMENDMENT NO. 875

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be set aside, and I send an amendment to the desk on behalf of Senator JOHNSON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for Mr. JOHNSON, proposes an amendment numbered 875.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make certain interest rate changes permanent)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . EXTENSION OF INTEREST RATE PROVISIONS.

(a) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Paragraph (6) of section 455(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(b)), as redesignated by section 8301(c)(1) of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (Public Law 105-178; 112 Stat. 498) is redesignated as paragraph (8) and inserted after paragraph (7) of that section.

(b) EXTENSION.—

(1) AMENDMENTS.—Sections 427A(k), 428C(c)(1), 438(b)(2)(I), and 455(b)(6) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1077a(k), 1078-3(c)(1), 1087-1(b)(2)(I), 1087e(b)(6)) are each amended by striking "and before July 1, 2003," each place it appears.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 427A(k) of such Act is amended by striking the subsection heading and inserting the following: "INTEREST RATES FOR NEW LOANS ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 1998.—".

(B) Section 438(b)(2)(I) of such Act is amended—

(i) by striking the subparagraph heading and inserting the following: "LOANS DISBURSED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2000.—"; and

(ii) in clause (i), by striking "2000," and inserting "2000".

(C) Section 455(b)(6) of such Act is amended—

(i) by striking the paragraph heading and inserting the following: "INTEREST RATE PROVISION FOR NEW LOANS ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 1998.—"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking "1999," and inserting "1999".

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this amendment for Senator JOHNSON preserves a bipartisan compromise achieved in the 1998 Higher Education Act that reduced and stabilized higher education loan interest rates. The amendment that has been offered amends the Higher Education Act to continue the current student loan interest rate formulas, preserving the successful system that helps put millions of students through school every year.

The budget resolution includes a Technical Reserve Fund that makes it possible to fix the problem in 2001 before a crisis develops in 2003 when the current formula for calculating interest rates is due to expire. But the reserve fund in the resolution will expire early next year. Therefore, action is needed now so that Congress and the financial aid community can turn to improving financial aid programs all over this country.

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

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in relation to the amendment I offered on behalf of Senator HOLLINGS, the RECORD should reflect that I have spoken to the Sen-

ator from South Carolina on several occasions today. He feels very strongly about the subject matter of this amendment. I am glad I had this slot available for the Senator, and I am happy to have offered this amendment on his behalf. Senator HOLLINGS will be available to speak more on the subject at a later time.

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

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

The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, under the order, Senators, to be eligible to call up their amendments, had to offer those amendments by no later than 6 p.m. today; am I correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. BYRD. Will the Chair please have the clerk state the amendments that qualify on the morrow?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the qualified amendments.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Senator SCHUMER, amendment No. 862; Senator FEINGOLD, amendment No. 863; Senator ROBERTS, amendment No. 864; Senator VOINOVICH, amendment No. 865; Senator CONRAD, second-degree amendment No. 866 to amendment No. 865; Senator CONRAD, amendment No. 867; Senator MCCAIN, amendment No. 868; Senator MCCAIN, amendment No. 869; Senator HUTCHINSON, amendment No. 870; Senator CRAIG, amendment No. 871; Senator BOND, amendment No. 872; Senator REID for Senator HOLLINGS, amendment No. 873; Senator WELLSTONE, amendment No. 874; and Senator JOHNSON, amendment No. 875.

Mr. BYRD. I take it that the hour of 6 p.m. has arrived?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct; it has arrived.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Chair and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. 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. BYRD. Mr. President, subject to change by the leadership, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, not to extend beyond the hour of 6:30 p.m., and that Senators may be permitted to speak for not to exceed 10 minutes each.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. HELMS. I ask it be in order for me to deliver my remarks seated at my desk.

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

RES IPSA LOQUITUR

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the July edition of the American Legion magazine features a remarkable statement of obvious truth by a much maligned American who deserves far better than the petty sniping he endures at the hands of cunning politicians and the media, neither of whom would acknowledge the truth if they fell over it in the middle of the street.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas pulled no punches in this article. His piece in the American Legion magazine was headed, appropriately, "Courage v. Civility." Mr. Justice Thomas knows a good bit about both. He is, himself, a civil gentleman who possesses great courage.

The subhead on his piece pinpoints a great deal about how a good many American freedoms are being lost. One of the things he says is, those who censor themselves put fear ahead of freedom. I will quote briefly from two or three statements made by the distinguished Justice of the Supreme Court.

He said:

I do not believe that one should fight over things that don't really matter. But what about things that do matter? It is not comforting to think that the natural tendency inside us is to settle for the bottom, or even the middle of the stream.

This tendency, in large part, results from an overemphasis on civility. None of us should be uncivil in our manner as we debate issues of consequence. No matter how difficult it is, good manners should be routine. However, in the effort to be civil in conduct, many who know better actually dilute firmly held views to avoid appearing "judgmental." They curb their tongues not only in form but also in substance. The insistence on civility in the form of our debates has the perverse effect of cannibalizing our principles, the very essence of a civil society. That is why civility cannot be the governing principle of citizenship or leadership.

By yielding to a false form of civility, we sometimes allow our critics to intimidate us. As I have said, active citizens are often subjected to truly vile attacks; they are branded as mean-spirited, racist, Uncle Tom, homophobic, sexist, etc. To this we often respond (if not succumb), so as not to be constantly fighting, by trying to be tolerant and nonjudgmental—i.e., we censor ourselves. This is not civility. It is cowardice, or well-intentioned self-deception at best.

I shall not quote further from this super article written by Mr. Justice Clarence Thomas, but I do ask unanimous consent the article by him be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the American Legion Magazine, July 2001]

COURAGE v. CIVILITY

THOSE WHO CENSOR THEMSELVES PUT FEAR AHEAD OF FREEDOM

(By Clarence Thomas)

My beliefs about personal fortitude and the importance of defending timeless principles of justice grew out of the wonderful years I spent with my grandparents, the years I have spent in Washington and my interest in world history—especially the history of countries in which the rule of law was surrendered to the rule of fear, such as during the rise of Nazism in what was then one of the most educated and cultured countries in Europe.

I have now been in Washington, D.C., for more than two decades. When I first arrived here in 1979, I thought there would be great debates about principles and policies in this city.

I expected citizens to feel passionately about what was happening in our country, to candidly and passionately debate the policies that had been implemented and suggest new ones.

I was disabused of this heretical notion in December 1980, when I was unwittingly candid with a young Washington Post reporter. He fairly and thoroughly displayed my naive openness in his op-ed about our discussion, in which I had raised what I thought were legitimate objections to a number of sacred policies, such as affirmative action, welfare, school busing—policies I felt were not well serving their intended beneficiaries. In my innocence, I was shocked at the public reaction. I had never been called such names in my entire life.

Why were these policies beyond question? What or who placed them off limits? Would it not be useful for those who felt strongly about these matters, and who wanted to solve the same problems, to have a point of view and to be heard? Sadly, in most forums of public dialogue in this country, the answer is no.

It became clear in rather short order that on very difficult issues, such as race, there was no real debate or honest discussion. Those who raised questions that suggested doubt about popular policies were subjected to intimidation. Debate was not permitted. Orthodoxy was enforced.

Today, no one can honestly claim surprise at the venomous attacks against those who take positions that are contrary to the canon laid down by those who claim to shape opinions. Such attacks have been standard fare for some time.

If you trim your sails, you appease those who lack the honesty and decency to disagree on the merits but prefer to engage in personal attacks. A good argument diluted to avoid criticism is not nearly as good as the undiluted argument, because we best arrive at truth through a process of honest and vigorous debate. Arguments should not sneak around in disguise, as if dissent were somehow sinister. One should not be cowed by criticism.

In my humble opinion, those who come to engage in debates of consequence, and who challenge accepted wisdom, should expect to be treated badly. Nonetheless, they must stand undaunted. That is required. And that should be expected, for it is bravery that is required to secure freedom. * * * For brutes, the most effective tactic is to intimidate an opponent into the silence of self-censorship.

In September 1975, The Wall Street Journal published a book review by Michael Novak of Thomas Sowell's book, "Race and Economics." The opening paragraph changed my life. It reads:

"Honesty on questions of race is rare in the United States. So many and unrecog-

nized have been the injustices committed against blacks that no one wishes to be unkind, or subject himself to intimidating charges. Hence, even simple truths are commonly evaded."

This insight applies with equal force to very many conversations of consequence today. Who wants to be denounced as a heartless monster? On important matters, crucial matters, silence is enforced.

Even if one has a valid position, and is intellectually honest, he has to anticipate nasty responses aimed at the messenger rather than the argument. The objective is to limit the range of the debate, the number of messengers and the size of the audience. The aim is to pressure dissenters to sanitize their message, so as to avoid being subjected to hurtful ad hominem criticism. Who wants to be caluminated? It's not worth the trouble.

But is it worth it? Just what is worth it, and what is not? If one wants to be popular, it is counterproductive to disagree with the majority. If one just wants to tread water until the next vacation, it isn't worth the agony. If one just wants to muddle through, it is not worth it. In my office, a little sign reads: "To avoid criticism, say nothing, do nothing, be nothing."

None of us really believes that the things we fear discussing honestly these days are really trivial—and the reaction of our critics shows that we are right. If our dissents are so trivial, why are their reactions so intense? If our ideas are trivial, why the head-hunting? Like you, I do not want to waste my time on the trivial. I certainly have no desire to be browbeaten and intimidated for the trivial.

What makes it all worthwhile? What makes it worthwhile is something greater than all of us. There are those things that at one time we all accepted as more important than our comfort or discomfort—if not our very lives: Duty, honor, country! There was a time when all was to be set aside for these. The plow was left idle, the hearth without fire, the homestead abandoned.

To enter public life is to step outside our more confined, comfortable sphere, and to face the broader, national sphere of citizenship. What makes it all worthwhile is to devote ourselves to the common good.

It goes without saying that we must participate in the affairs of our country if we think they are important and have an impact on our lives. But how are we to do that? In what manner should we participate?

I do not believe that one should fight over things that don't really matter. But what about things that do matter? It is not comforting to think that the natural tendency inside us is to settle for the bottom, or even the middle of the stream.

This tendency, in large part, results from an overemphasis on civility. None of us should be uncivil in our manner as we debate issues of consequence. No matter how difficult it is, good manners should be routine. However, in the effort to be civil in conduct, many who know better actually dilute firmly held views to avoid appearing "judgmental." They curb their tongues not only in form but also in substance. The insistence on civility in the form of our debates has the perverse effect of cannibalizing our principles, the very essence of a civil society. That is why civility cannot be the governing principle of citizenship or leadership.

By yielding to a false form of civility, we sometimes allow our critics to intimidate us. As I have said, active citizens are often subjected to truly vile attacks; they are branded as mean-spirited, racist, Uncle Tom, homophobic, sexist, etc. To this we often respond (if not succumb), so as not to be constantly fighting, by trying to be tolerant and