

The clerk will read the bills for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2629) to amend the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 to eliminate the coverage gap, to eliminate HMO subsidies, to repeal health savings accounts, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2630) to amend title 5, United States Code, to establish a national health program administered by the Office of Personnel Management to offer Federal employee health benefits plans to individuals who are not Federal employees, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2631) to require the Federal Trade Commission to monitor and investigate gasoline prices under certain circumstances.

A bill (S. 2632) to establish a first responder and terrorism preparedness grant information hotline, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2633) to amend the Federal Power Act to provide refunds for unjust and unreasonable charges on electric energy in the State of California.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I object to further proceeding en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard, and the bills will be placed on the calendar.

FEDERAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 620, S.J. Res. 40. I ask unanimous consent that the motion be set aside to recur on Monday, July 12.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Is this the matter—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Asking through the Chair a question to the majority leader, is this the matter we are going to be working on next week?

Mr. FRIST. It is.

Mr. REID. I have worked a lot this afternoon and this morning clearing with our Members the fact that it would not be necessary that we deal with cloture on the motion to proceed. We have cleared that. We would also be in a position to have no amendments on the constitutional amendment that we are going to debate next week. Whatever the majority believes to be a reasonable time to debate that, we will be in agreement with that and have a vote on the resolution. We are cleared on our side to do that.

We would hope, if the majority leader can get a clearance on that, we can move forward and have a definite time sometime next week for a vote on the resolution itself. We are ready to move forward on it.

Yesterday, we believed it was necessary that we have the leader file this cloture motion on the motion to proceed, but we will not need that now. We are ready to rock and roll on the debate of this issue.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, for the benefit of our colleagues, we are talk-

ing about the issue surrounding marriage and the constitutional amendment and procedurally how best to address the issue. We have had debate and discussion over the course of the day. Because of the late hour, I was not able to talk to the managers on our side and have the same discussions as the other side has had as far as the best way to address the issue procedurally. Because of the late hour, I have not been able to reach our managers of the bill, but over the course of the weekend we will do that.

For the benefit of our colleagues, we will substantively be debating the issue Monday and Tuesday. In all likelihood, we will have a vote on Wednesday through one of the two modes that have been mentioned, but we will make a final decision Monday morning after we have had the opportunity to talk to the managers on our side as well.

Mr. REID. I simply state again, procedurally we are not going to be in the way. We are ready to move forward.

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

Mr. REID. If I could ask one other question before the majority leader begins to speak, are we going to have any votes on Monday? I have gotten a number of requests through Senator DASCHLE.

Mr. FRIST. We will not be voting on Monday. We will have no rollcall votes in Monday's session.

Mr. REID. We are coming in to debate the issue?

Mr. FRIST. Let me go ahead and do the unanimous consent, and then I will make another statement that is unrelated.

Mr. REID. Certainly.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 12, 2004

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 1 p.m. on Monday, July 12. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 40; provided further that the time until 6 p.m. be equally divided between the chairman and ranking member or their designees.

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

THE JOBS BILL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in a few moments, I am going to be making another statement before closing, but before doing that, I want to point out to our colleagues that over the course of today, there have been a number of meetings held between both sides of the aisle and leadership to keep moving along issues that are important to this body and to the American people.

One of the bills that the assistant Democratic leader and myself and the Democratic leader and our leadership addressed earlier this morning is the jobs in manufacturing bill, the FSC/ETI bill, and the efforts that we are making to move toward conference. This bill has passed the Senate, it has passed the House of Representatives, and now we are doing our best to address how to get to conference. This is a time-sensitive matter because the tariffs on U.S. products are increasing.

Since we passed the Senate bill and the House bill, these tariffs, which started at 5 percent in March and reached 9 percent on July 1, continue to increase at 1 percent a month.

We spent 14 days debating the bill. We had 100 amendments, made real progress, and now it is important that we go to conference to fully address and resolve the differences between the House and the Senate bills. For the benefit of all of our colleagues, I wanted to let them know that we are in constant discussion about how best to get to conference.

HIV/AIDS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I want to very briefly, before bringing us formally an end to this week, address an issue that sits on the back burner all too often. It is an issue that affects mankind globally in a very direct way, in a moral sense. It is the HIV/AIDS virus. I speak today because on Tuesday of this week, UNAIDS released a comprehensive report on the spread of global HIV/AIDS.

This little, tiny virus, which people knew nothing about 23 years ago, has killed over 23 million people. The sobering statistics that were released this week are grim. Last year, the number of newly infected victims reached an all-time high of 5 million. The number of people living with this little virus has gone up in nearly every region of the world. The numbers have increased. The UNAIDS chief told the Associated Press:

The virus is running faster than all of us.

Every 14 seconds a child is orphaned by AIDS. According to the U.N. report:

An estimated 15 million children under the age of 18 worldwide have lost one or both parents to AIDS.

In Swaziland and in Botswana, over a third of the population, one in three people, has the HIV virus. One-third of the country, if not treated, will end up dying from a terrible, a painful, and an entirely preventable disease.

One out of three people in Swaziland and Botswana, these are staggering numbers. It is hard to comprehend. When you hear the statistics, it is hard to relate them to real people on the ground. I have had the opportunity to do just that because each year I travel, not as a Senator but as a physician, to Africa. While I am there, I see the devastation in real people's eyes and lives, the destruction of the family, the destruction of the most productive fabric

of society—dying, disappearing because of this little virus.

Every time I go to Africa—last year I was there in September—I am overwhelmed by the devastation this little vicious virus causes. To me, and I know to the distinguished Senator occupying the chair now, who also has spent his life studying disease and viruses and the like, it is remarkable because in 1983 we didn't know this thing existed. It probably didn't really exist as we know it today in the United States of America in 1983, when both I and probably the distinguished Senator in the chair were not that old. I was in my training at the time. To think that little virus is devastating the world in the way it has over a 21-year period is just unbelievable to me.

If you walk through a village in Africa, or parts of Africa, it becomes apparent what this virus is doing. You see older people and you see little kids running around. What you do not see is people from about 19 years of age to 28 or 30 years of age, or 35, right through that age. That whole layer of the population has been wiped out by this virus. That segment is also usually the most productive, strongest part of a society and it is just wiped out.

The young boys and girls you see running around, if you project that out, are left to fend for themselves. They might live with their grandparents or great-grandparents, but they generally don't have the sort of mentors which that age would otherwise be provided. Mature beyond their years, these little kids watch hopelessly as their parents die, as their uncles die, as their aunts die. When I say 35 percent of the population has HIV/AIDS, that is what it means when you are on the ground.

That is depressing. That is the depressing part. Despite that depressing picture, there is a lot of hope. If you look in countries such as Brazil and Thailand, there has been a real success in keeping those infection rates down. Uganda has achieved remarkable success.

President Museveni, from Uganda, was here a few weeks ago. I had the opportunity to speak with him about their success. They have used some innovative programs. They have really pioneered programs we know are successful.

The one we talk about the most and has become a model for much of the global effort is the ABC program, a program of A, abstinence; B, be faithful to your partner; and C, condom use if the A and B are ineffective. So the strategy of ABC was pioneered in Uganda. It took Presidential leadership there. President Museveni was the President who, in every speech, talked about HIV/AIDS, which really wasn't popular when he started, about 15 years ago, to do so.

The strategy incorporates both reducing the risk through the use of condoms with a strategy of risk avoidance through the message of limiting sexual partners.

It is totally preventable. The disease itself, this little virus and the contagiousness of the virus is totally preventable.

The comprehensive strategy is working. Uganda's HIV/AIDS infection rate has steadily declined. In 2001, the infection rate for 18- to 49-year-olds was 5 percent. In Kampala, which is a major urban center in Uganda, where HIV/AIDS once raged, aggressive intervention lowered it from 29 percent down to 8 percent.

I had the opportunity to operate at a wonderful hospital in Kampala about 2 years ago, 3 years ago. So to see that remarkable progress, cutting the infection rate from 30 down to 8 percent, has been remarkable.

The world community must respond. The world community is responding. The United States of America has stepped up to lead the battle. Last year, Congress passed and the President signed a global HIV/AIDS bill which projects out \$15 billion over 5 years for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS. At the end of the program's first year, over 200,000 people will be on treatment with 1.1 million people receiving care. In the past few months, the U.S. has released \$865 million in HIV/AIDS funding to the 15 nations receiving those emergency funds.

This year, America will provide \$2.4 billion to combat that HIV/AIDS virus, as well as tuberculosis and malaria, two other infectious diseases that cause about between 1 and 2 and 3 million deaths in addition, each year, respectively. Ultimately, America's efforts will prevent 7 million new infections. It will provide antiretroviral drugs for 2 million HIV-infected people. It will provide care for 10 million HIV-infected individuals with AIDS and AIDS orphans. This will bring hope to millions of people around the world. It is a lofty goal of a great and compassionate nation.

I have taken the opportunity to mention this today, on Friday, because much of that is from the report of last Tuesday.

Next week there will be some very significant meetings. Over 15,000 scientists and AIDS activists and advocates will gather in Thailand, in Bangkok, for the International AIDS Conference. They will look at prevention efforts. They will look at treatment efforts. They will look at real-life experience. They will look at what works and what does not work, so we can better address this global epidemic.

Americans can be proud of our commitment and compassion. The United States of America is the most generous nation in the world today in fighting HIV/AIDS and providing substantial resources for that prevention, care, and treatment for those infected with the virus.

We will spend about \$2.4 billion on global AIDS this year and an estimated \$2.8 billion next year. We have already provided over \$1.1 billion to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and

Malaria. That is approximately one-third of all the commitments to the fund. Our country, the United States of America, has provided about one-third of all the commitments to the fund and the rest of the world makes up the other two-thirds.

We can't do it alone. It is going to take participation of the recipient countries. They must do their part to promote effective prevention and treatment strategies. It takes demonstrated national leadership such as the leadership of President Museveni in Uganda. Our friends and our allies must continue to provide firm financial and moral support. Nations are contributing. We want to encourage them to contribute more, and that is reflected in the statistics from last week. But demand continues to outstrip or grow faster than supply. Other wealthy nations must increase their contributions. We cannot rely on the Global Fund alone to combat global HIV/AIDS. It takes sustained, focused efforts on the part of individual countries, rich and poor, to lift the shadow of HIV/AIDS. Our Congress, this body, and the President of the United States have shown tremendous leadership in the battle against HIV/AIDS.

It is my hope this week's U.N. report and next week's conference will not just be occasions for more talk but will be catalysts for greater action on the part of the world's leaders. History is going to judge whether the global community stood by and permitted one of the greatest destructions of human life in recorded history or stepped in and performed one of its most heroic rescues. America has chosen the latter. Let us hope the world will, too.

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, let me remind my Senators one more time that on Monday, Senators are encouraged to come to the floor to speak on the constitutional amendment on marriage. I will be discussing with the Democratic leader a process for debate and consideration of that joint resolution. Given the amount of debate, I do not foresee a vote on Monday. Thus, as I mentioned a few minutes ago, there will be no rollcall votes during Monday's session.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
JULY 12, 2004, AT 1 P.M.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:22 p.m., adjourned until Monday, July 12, 2004, at 1 p.m.