

and ordered to be printed, and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

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

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment, with Annex and Protocol, signed at Denver on July 1, 1995. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to this Treaty.

The bilateral investment treaty (BIT) with Nicaragua is the fifth such treaty signed between the United States and a country of Central or South America. The Treaty will protect U.S. investment and assist Nicaragua in its efforts to develop its economy by creating conditions more favorable for U.S. private investment and thereby strengthening the development of its private sector.

The Treaty is fully consistent with U.S. policy toward international and domestic investment. A specific tenet of U.S. policy, reflected in this Treaty, is that U.S. investment abroad and foreign investment in the United States should receive national treatment. Under this Treaty, the Parties also agree to customary international law standards for expropriation. The Treaty includes detailed provisions regarding the computation and payment of prompt, adequate, and effective compensation for expropriation; free transfer of funds related to investments; freedom of investments from specified performance requirements; fair, equitable, and most-favored-nation treatment; and the investor's freedom to choose to resolve disputes with the host government through international arbitration.

I recommend that the Senate consider this Treaty as soon as possible, and give its advice and consent to ratification of the Treaty, with Annex and Protocol, at an early date.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 26, 2000.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 27,
2000

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 27. I further ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, 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 the Senate then resume consider-

ation of the Cochran amendment No. 3625 to the Labor-Health and Human Services appropriations bill as under the previous order.

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

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, further, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess from the hour of 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly policy conferences to meet.

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

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that following the disposition of the pending McCain amendment, Senator REID be recognized in order to call up amendment No. 3526.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. SPECTER. For the information of all Senators, on Tuesday the Senate will resume consideration of the Labor-HHS-Education bill at 9:30 a.m. Under the order, there will be closing remarks on the Cochran amendment regarding pilot programs for antimicrobial resistance monitoring and prevention with a vote to occur at approximately 9:45. Following the vote, the Senate will continue debate on amendments as they are offered. Senators may anticipate rollcall votes throughout the day.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SPECTER. 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 following the remarks of Senator KENNEDY.

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

Mr. SPECTER. I thank the Chair and 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. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I understand we are in morning business; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, is there a time limitation in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time limitation is 10 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY. I ask unanimous consent to be able to proceed for 20 minutes.

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, as I understand it, when we set aside the underlying legislation, before the Senate was the Cochran antimicrobial resistance amendment; am I correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That's correct.

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I commend my friend from Mississippi, Senator COCHRAN, and also Senator FRIST, for the introduction of the amendment. I welcome the opportunity to join with them in the hope that the Senate will accept that amendment because this amendment is focused on one of the very significant and important public health challenges that we face as a Nation, and that is antimicrobial resistance.

Microbes resistant to antibiotics are a major health threat. The World Health Organization reports that antibiotic-resistant infections acquired in hospitals kill over 14,000 people in the United States every year—that's almost two persons every hour, every day, every year. Unless we take action, drug-resistant infectious diseases will become even more widespread in the United States and kill even larger numbers of patients.

Infections resistant to antibiotics are extremely expensive to treat. It is a hundred times more expensive to treat a patient with drug-resistant TB than to treat a patient with drug-sensitive TB. The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases has estimated that the total cost of drug-resistant infections in this country is \$4 billion a year—and this cost will rise as resistant microbes become more common.

The amendment takes an important step to address this health crisis by giving the nation more tools to win the battle against antimicrobial resistance.

Overuse of existing antibiotics contributes heavily to the problem of antimicrobial resistance. Patients often demand antibiotics and doctors often prescribe them for conditions in which they are clearly ineffective. We need to educate patients and medical professionals in the more appropriate use of antibiotics.

The nation's public health agencies are under-equipped to monitor and combat resistant infections. Many public health agencies lack even such basic equipment as a fax machine, and cannot even conduct simple laboratory tests to diagnose resistant infections. We need to strengthen the capacity of public health agencies to diagnose, monitor, and deal effectively with outbreaks of resistant infections.

Many patients acquire resistant infections in hospitals. Children, the elderly and persons with reduced immune systems are particularly at risk. We can do more to prevent the spread of resistant infections by strengthening infectious disease control programs in hospitals and clinics.

We are in a race against time to find new antibiotics before microbes become resistant to those already in use. We need to increase research on how microbes become resistant to antibiotics and on new ways to fight resistant infections. If we slow the rate at which existing antibiotics are losing their effectiveness and accelerate the pace of discovery, we can win the race against antimicrobial resistance.

The measures we take against microbes resistant to antibiotics will also allow the nation to respond more effectively to terrorist attacks using biological weapons. America is a nation at risk from bioterrorism. A deadly disease plague released into a crowded airport, shopping mall or sports stadium could kill thousands. A contagious disease like smallpox released in an American city could kill millions.

To fight such attacks effectively, we must strengthen the nation's ability to recognize, diagnose and contain outbreaks of infectious disease. The additional funds that the Cochran-Frist-Kennedy amendment provides to state and local public health agencies will improve their ability to combat any disease outbreak, whether caused by microbes resistant to antibiotics, new diseases like West Nile fever, or deliberate attacks using biological weapons.

The need is urgent to begin to arm ourselves for the fight against infectious disease, bioterrorism, and microbes resistant to antibiotics. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

EDUCATION SPENDING AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, tomorrow we are going to be addressing the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. In that legislation, we will have allocations of resources to fund the Federal participation in education. The federal government provides only 7 cents out of every dollar spent on education at the local level. But those are important funds for many different communities.

I regret very much that we are taking up this appropriations bill for education, before we have completed action on the authorizing bill, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. It seems to me that we are putting the cart before the horse. We should have had a good debate and resolved the issues on education policy before funding them. Instead, we are now addressing appropriations before we even have the authorizations in hand. There are important policy issues and questions that ought to be resolved.

At the outset, I thank our friends on the Appropriations Committee for the resources they provided in a number of different programs. But I believe some programs were underfunded in the allocation of resources.

The budget is established by the majority. In this case, it was decided by

the Republican majority. The Republican Budget Resolution shortchanged education programs in order to pay for unwise tax cuts for the wealthy. In the Resolution, the Republican majority imposed cuts of more than 6%—more than \$100 billion over the next five years—in discretionary spending, including education programs.

As a result of this resolution, the allocation for education is too low. Because of that inadequate allocation, the Senate Appropriations Committee was forced to make unwise cuts in key education and other discretionary programs. This \$100 billion in order to afford a tax cut for wealthy individuals is the wrong priority.

That is what a good deal of the debate is going to be about—about whether we think we ought to have further tax cuts for wealthy individuals or whether we ought to invest in the education of the children of this country. I believe we ought to invest in the children of this country.

We didn't get the kind of allocation in the Appropriations Committee that we should have, and we are going to find, once this is approved, that it will go to the House, which has had a very significant reduction in terms of allocating resources. We are going to find further cuts in education. That troubles me.

If you look over the past years, we will see what has happened in the history of cutting education funding in appropriations bills.

We have seen, going back to 1995 when the Republicans took control of the Senate, that we had a rescission. We had money already appropriated. But then we had a rescission of \$1.7 billion below what was actually enacted in 1995.

In 1996, the House bill was \$3.9 billion below 1995.

In 1997, the Senate bill was \$3.1 billion below what the President requested.

In 1998, the House and Senate bill was \$200 million below the President's request.

In 1999, the House bill was \$2 billion below the President's request.

In 2000, the House bill was \$2.8 billion below the President's request.

In fiscal year 2001, it is \$2.9 billion below the President's request.

We have all of the statements being made by the Republican leadership about how important education is in terms of national priorities. We have our Republican Majority Leader, going back to January 1999, saying, "Education is going to be a central issue this year. . . . For starters, we must reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. That is important."

That was the bill which was set aside in May of this year. Some six weeks later, we still haven't had it back in order to be able to debate it.

In remarks to the Conference of Mayors, the majority leader said: "But education is going to have a lot of atten-

tion, and it's not going to be just words. . . ."

June 22, 1999: "Education is number one on the agenda for Republicans in the Congress this year. . . ."

Then remarks to the Chamber of Commerce on February 1, 2000: "We're going to work very hard on education. I have emphasized that every year I have been majority leader. . . . And Republicans are committed to doing that."

National Conference on State Legislatures, February 3: "We must reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. . . . Education will be a high priority."

April 20, the Congress Daily: "LOTT said last week his top priorities in May include an agriculture sanctions bill, Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization, and passage of four appropriations bills."

May of this year: "This is very important legislation. I hope we can debate it seriously and have amendments in the education area. Let's talk education."

Then, on May 2, on elementary and secondary education: "Have you scheduled a cloture vote on that?" Senator LOTT: "No, I haven't scheduled a cloture vote. . . . But education is number one on the minds of the American people all across this country and every State, including my own state. For us to have a good, healthy and even a protracted debate on amendments on education, I think is the way to go."

This is the record. We still don't have that debate. That was 6 weeks ago. We had 6 days of debate, and 2 days of the debate were without any votes at all. We had eight amendments, and three of those we were glad to accept.

We have effectively not had the debate on education. Here we are on Monday afternoon before the Fourth of July recess, and we have the appropriations bills up with a wide variety of appropriations to support the agencies in areas of health and of education. I believe we are giving education policy short shrift. You can't draw any other conclusion—short shrift.

We were prepared to spend 15 days on bankruptcy reform but only 6 days on education—and for 2 days we couldn't vote. 15 days on bankruptcy and 53 amendments; 4 days where we had amendments on elementary and secondary education and only 8 amendments.

That is an indication of priorities. I take strong exception. I think the American people do as well.

Money in and of itself doesn't solve all of our problems, but it sure is an indication of where our national priorities are.

If I look over this chart, the Federal share of education funding has declined. Look at what has happened in higher education: 15.4 percent in 1980 has declined to 10.7 percent in 1999. Take elementary and secondary education. In 1980, it was 11.9 percent on