education bill in which the Federal Government participates—not heavily. The Federal Government's role in funding elementary and secondary education is about 7 percent of the total expenditure. But the argument is whether the decisions are made in Washington as to how that 7 percent is used before it is sent down to the school districts or whether we send down the 7 percent and let the States and the school districts decide, which is what our position is on this side.

I spoke at a graduation a couple weeks ago in Chugwater, WY. The graduating class was 12. You can see that is a pretty small school. The things they need in Chugwater, WY, are quite different than what you need in Pittsburgh or Philadelphia or Washington, DC. So if you are going to really be able to help all different kinds of schools and have the flexibility to do that, clearly, you have to transport those decisions to State and local government.

These are some of the things in which we find ourselves involved. I am hopeful we can move forward. I do not expect everyone to agree. Certainly, that is not why we are here. But we ought to have a system where, No. 1, after we have dealt with an issue, we can move on to the next issue, and not have it continuously brought up as nongermane amendments, which is happening all the time. We ought to be able to say, we have a system where we can participate. But we have a system that can hold everything up, which is being used now in not allowing us to move forward as we should.

As you can imagine, it gets just a little bit nerve-racking from time to time when you think of all the things that we could be doing, and need to be doing, but find it difficult to do.

Finally, there is something, it seems to me, that would be most helpful if we could do it a little more. We are talking now about the reregulation of electricity, trying to make it competitive so there would be better opportunity for people to choose their supplier, so there would be a better opportunity for people to invest in generation, and do all those things. But we really have not decided where we want to go and where we want to be.

One of the things that seems to be difficult for us to do in governance is, first of all, to decide what we want to accomplish and then talk about how we get there. It sounds like a fairly simple routine, but it is not really happening. It would be good if we could do that, if we could say, for example, in terms of the Patients' Bill of Rights: All right, what do we want the result to be? What is our goal? What do we want to accomplish? and see if we could not define that, and then make the rules, make the regulations, pass the laws that would implement that decision. But instead, if we do not have that clearly defined, it seems that we continue to go around and around.

I am sometimes reminded by children of Alice in Wonderland. She fell through the hole in the Earth and was lost, and she talked to people to try to get some directions. None of them were very useful. She finally came to the Cheshire cat who was sitting up in a tree at a fork in the road.

She said: Mr. Cat, which road should I take?

He said: Where do you want to go?

She said: I don't know.

He said: Then it doesn't make any difference which road you take.

That is kind of where we are in some of the things we do. In any event, we are going to make some progress. I hope that we move forward and get our appropriations finished. I hope we can do something on national security. We need to have a system that works to decide what it is we want to accomplish, how we best accomplish that, and put it into place.

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UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—AMENDMENT TO S. 2549

Mr. THOMAS. Madam President, I have a unanimous consent request. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the current unanimous consent agreement, Senator HATCH be recognized at 4 p.m. to offer his amendment regarding hate crimes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. COLLINS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

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

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CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

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NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 2549, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2549) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Smith of New Hampshire amendment No. 3210, to prohibit granting security clearances to felons.

McCain amendment No. 3214, to amendment No. 3210, to require the disclosure of expenditures and contributions by certain political organizations.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, if my recollection serves me, the senior Senator from Massachusetts was to offer an amendment which would be the subject of debate for some period of time. That would be followed by the senior Senator from Utah, Mr. HATCH, who likewise will offer an amendment that would be the subject of debate. I see my distinguished colleague. I yield to him for any clarification he wishes to make of my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I am here in part today to offer Senator KENNEDY's amendment on his behalf and to speak in support of it. If the good Senator from Virginia is ready and wishes to do that, we could perhaps go through some of the cleared amendments on the authorization bill. I am happy to do it either way, to join with him in offering those amendments now for a few minutes and then to introduce the Kennedy amendment, if he would like.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair wishes to inform both Senators that the unanimous consent request was modified a brief time ago to provide for the Senator from Utah to offer his amendment at 4 o'clock.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I am glad to be informed of that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It did not affect the positioning of the amendment of the Senator from Massachusetts, which the Chair believes is to be offered first.

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

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

Mr. WARNER. At this time, Senator LEVIN and I will act on some cleared amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, so we keep this clear, there is a unanimous consent agreement that is currently in place, as modified, so that immediately following the introduction of the Kennedy amendment and Senators speaking thereon, at 4 o'clock Senator HATCH would then introduce his amendment; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that we maintain that unanimous consent agreement in place without modification, exempt that prior to my offering the Kennedy amendment, it be in order for the Senator from Virginia to proceed with the cleared amendments, as he has indicated. I further ask unanimous consent that immediately following my introduction of the Kennedy amendment