

we have had in a very long time to make some changes, to make some of the kinds of changes that the American people asked us to make in November and, indeed, have been asking us to make for some time.

It is the first opportunity in a long time to make some of the kinds of changes that most of us have known needed to be made for a long time in the welfare program. Most everyone agrees that we need a program in this country to help people who need help and help them back into the workplace. The program as it now exists has not accomplished that. Indeed, the program we now have has not accomplished the basic things we think it should accomplish.

The provisions of this welfare proposal will allow us to encourage people back to work, to put in some incentives to go back to work, and to deal very properly with the notion of child care, with extending health benefits to single-parent families so that that parent can work.

We have done this in our own Wyoming Legislature. We recognized some time ago that if the option was to take a minimum wage job and lose those benefits, then the better thing to do was stay on welfare. We have to change that. We do have to make some changes if we expect different results, and too often we all talk expansively about change; we want to make change; we are all for change; but when the time comes, we really resist change. We simply cannot expect the results to be different unless we do some changing, and one of the principal, most important changes here is to allow the States to have more flexibility, to allow the States to be the laboratory for developing and testing and creating programs that, indeed, deliver the kinds of programs needed.

I urge my fellow Senators to vote in support of this welfare bill today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. DODD. I thank the Chair.

Madam President, just very briefly regarding the welfare reform proposal, this is a substantially improved product from what the other body, the House of Representatives, has passed. It is certainly improved over what was originally proposed by the majority leader in the areas of child care, maintenance of effort, and a number of other areas that have been included as part of this proposal. My concern is, of course, that this may be the best it ever gets and that as we go to conference, as historically happens, you find some sort of middle ground between what the Senate has done and what the House of Representatives has done.

If that is the case, this bill will come back to us from conference in a very weakened position. And so while I think there will be a substantial vote

for the proposal today, having spoken now with a number of our colleagues, particularly on this side, Madam President, it should not be construed, if the vote is a strong vote for the Senate proposal, that this is some indication of a willingness to support whatever comes back from conference.

In order to have intelligent welfare reform, you have to make investments. The distinguished Senator from New York [Mr. MOYNIHAN], who, as I mentioned at the outset of this debate, knows more about welfare reform than most of us will ever know about the issue, has warned that if we do not make these investments, we are going to be looking down the road at a tragic situation.

It is not enough just give the issue back to the States. The problems exist primarily at the local level, the city and town level. I do not know how many States are necessarily going to allocate resources in those parts of their own jurisdiction where the problems persist the most.

Having said all of that, Madam President, I do not disagree with what my colleagues have generally said this morning, that this is a far better bill than what the other body has passed, a far better bill than was initially proposed and offered here in the Senate.

But I would still say that we have a long way to go before this bill becomes the kind of proposal that not only saves money, but allows people to go from welfare to work and protects the 10 million children who could be adversely affected by these decisions.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Morning business is closed.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 9:30 having arrived, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1976, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1976) making appropriations for Agriculture, rural development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

(1) Brown modified amendment No. 2688 (to committee amendment beginning on page 83, line 4, through page 84, line 2), to prohibit the use of funds for salaries and expenses of Department of Agriculture employees who carry out a price support or production adjustment program for peanuts.

(2) Bryan-Bumpers amendment No. 2691, to eliminate funding to carry out the Market Promotion Program.

AMENDMENT NO. 2691

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 15 minutes for debate under the Bryan amendment No. 2691 equally divided. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I yield myself such time as I may consume. It is my intent to speak a few minutes in opposition to the Bryan amendment, to put in context the decision we will make at 9:45.

This is an amendment that does not seek to modify or simply reduce the funding for the Market Promotion Program. It is designed to kill the program, eliminate all funding under this legislation for this program in the next fiscal year. I think that would be a big mistake, Mr. President, and here is why.

The Foreign Agriculture Service undertook a study of this program in response to requests from the Congress and determined that for every \$1 that we invest in this Market Promotion Program promoting U.S. agriculture commodities and foodstuffs that are exported in the international marketplace, \$16 is generated in additional agriculture imports.

At a time when we are trying to compete more aggressively in the international market because of the opening up of new markets under the GATT Uruguay Round Agreement, we are trying to do a better job and use all the resources that we can muster to help ensure that we maintain a competitive edge and that we work with our farmers and ranchers and food processors to try to enlarge our share of markets. This is going to have just the opposite effect.

So I am hopeful that the Senate will vote against this amendment. I urge all Senators to carefully consider this. This is a proven, tested, workable, and effective program, and we have the facts to prove it. We debated this issue for an hour last night and laid all the facts out on both sides. I hope the Senators this morning will reject this amendment soundly.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, if there is no one seeking to address the Senate in support of the amendment, I am going to suggest that the time during the quorum, which I am going to call, be charged to the proponents of the amendment. I ask unanimous consent that the time be so charged.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COCHRAN. 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.

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

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