

States to maintain some level of their spending effort.

The child care provisions in the conference report provide \$1.8 billion more than current law and \$1 billion more than the Senate-passed bill. Specifically, a child care block grant is established that includes \$11 billion in mandatory spending for welfare recipients and \$7 billion in discretionary spending for low income families. Spending on child care increases from \$1.3 billion in fiscal year 1997 to over \$2 billion in fiscal year 2002.

In the conference report, States are required to maintain their spending effort for the life of the new cash block grant at 75 percent of what they spent in fiscal year 1994 for the programs that are in this block grant. This seems to represent the objective of the majority of Members in the Senate.

CONFERENCE REPORT MODIFICATIONS

Now let me touch on some of the areas that have been modified since the Senate first passed welfare reform. No doubt about it, there has been much speculation over the savings that will come out of this reform. I can tell you this: The savings realized from the conference report are about the same as those realized from the Senate bill.

The conference report does require States to deny more cash to mothers who have more children while receiving welfare. However States have the flexibility to opt-out. As Senator SANTORUM said last night, this provision asks State legislatures to make a decision.

Let us make no mistake about it, the conference report does establish a child protection block grant that combines mandatory funding for existing child welfare programs while maintaining current law protections. However foster care and adoption maintenance payments remain open entitlement and the enactment of the block grant is delayed to fiscal year 1997. Funding for these programs are \$1 billion more than the Senate passed Balanced Budget Act.

NEW PROVISIONS

Let me list a few additions to the Senate-passed bill now in the conference report before us.

The effective date of the new cash welfare block grant is delayed to fiscal year 1997 yet allows States to opt-in during fiscal year 1996.

We have also included a 10-percent reduction in the social services block grant which was proposed by President Clinton. This will provide \$1.6 billion in savings over 7 years.

The eligibility for States to receive food stamp block grants is tightened up. States which have implemented electronic benefit transfer statewide will be eligible. States with an error rate of less than 6 percent are also eligible.

The controversy surrounding block grants for child nutrition programs is settled by allowing a pilot project for seven States to participate in an optional block grant program. Authority

expires in 2000. Block grants could then be revisited.

GOP GOVERNORS BACK CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Thirty Republican Governors sent a letter to President Clinton on December 20 urging him to support this conference agreement. They write:

While each State will have its own reform strategy, this legislation helps to accomplish those goals by setting forth these guidelines:

Families must work for benefits and States that get families working are rewarded.

No family can stay on welfare after 2 years without working.

The total time a family can collect cash benefits is limited to 5 years unless States, because of their own unique circumstances, opt out of this limit.

And States will have the option to pay cash benefits to teen parents, but they must live at home and stay in school to receive those benefits.

I urge my colleagues to support the conference report to H.R. 4. The core principles and policies necessary for dramatic reform contained in it are consistent with the Senate-passed bill and consistent with the needs of Americans.

So, Mr. President, it seems to me we have been able to retain nearly every provision that was in the Senate-passed bill. I know for some of my colleagues, because the President says he is going to veto it, maybe for that reason they feel compelled to support the President. But my view is we have a good bill. We ought to vote for it. We ought to send it to the President, and then try to persuade the President that this is a bill he should sign.

I yield back the balance of my time.

SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT—VETO

The Senate continued with the reconsideration of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Shall the bill (H.R. 1058) pass, the objections of the President of the United States to the contrary notwithstanding? The yeas and nays are required under the Constitution. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 68, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 612 Leg.]

YEAS—68

Abraham	Dole	Inhofe
Ashcroft	Domenici	Jeffords
Baucus	Exon	Johnston
Bennett	Faircloth	Kassebaum
Bingaman	Feinstein	Kempthorne
Bradley	Ford	Kennedy
Brown	Frist	Kerry
Burns	Gorton	Kohl
Campbell	Gramm	Kyl
Chafee	Grams	Lieberman
Coats	Grassley	Lott
Cochran	Gregg	Lugar
Coverdell	Harkin	Mack
Craig	Hatch	McConnell
D'Amato	Hatfield	Mikulski
DeWine	Helms	Moseley-Braun
Dodd	Hutchison	Murkowski

Murray	Rockefeller	Stevens
Nickles	Roth	Thomas
Pell	Santorum	Thompson
Pressler	Simpson	Thurmond
Reid	Smith	Warner
Robb	Snowe	

NAYS—30

Akaka	Dorgan	Levin
Biden	Feingold	McCain
Boxer	Glenn	Moynihan
Breaux	Graham	Nunn
Bryan	Heflin	Pryor
Bumpers	Hollings	Sarbanes
Byrd	Inouye	Shelby
Cohen	Kerrey	Simon
Conrad	Lautenberg	Specter
Daschle	Leahy	Wellstone

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Bond

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 68, the nays are 30. One Senator responding present. Two-thirds of the Senators voting, a quorum being present, having voted in the affirmative, the bill on reconsideration is passed, the objections of the President of the United States to the contrary notwithstanding.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 3 minutes.

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MAJORITY LEADER

ted in the affirmative, the bill on reconsideration is passed, the

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, if I may have the attention of the Senators, Dizzy Dean said, "It is all right to brag if you have done it."

BOB DOLE has done it! He began his service as leader of the Republican Party in the Senate on January 3, 1985, and the record, up until today, for having held the position of leadership on the Republican side of the aisle was held by the late Charles McNary of Oregon, who was leader 10 years, 11 months, 18 days. Now, BOB DOLE has not been leader as long as Robinson Crusoe was marooned on that island. Crusoe was marooned 28 years, 2 months, and 19 days. But BOB DOLE has been the leader of the Republican Party, as of today, 10 years, 11 months, and 19 days!

Mr. President, I served with BOB DOLE when he was minority leader and I was majority leader. I served with him when he was majority leader and I was minority leader. I always found him to be a man of his word. We had some exchanges from time to time, as leaders will have, but I found him to be an honorable man. I shall always look back upon my service with him, when we were leaders together, with a great deal of pleasure.

I have a fondness for BOB DOLE, and I am glad today to salute him as a great leader of his party. I commend him on his service not only to his party but also to his country, and for his service to the Senate.

May God's richest blessings follow him and his loved ones always.

[Applause, Senators rising.]

Mr. THURMOND addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina [Mr. THURMOND] is recognized.