

and safety of those who consume donated food that regulatory protections remain in place.

I also remain concerned about subsection (b) of the bill, which transfers this provision from the National and Community Service Act to the Child Nutrition Act. But I will not object or seek to amend that subsection based on my understanding that the Labor and Human Resources Committee will continue to exercise jurisdiction over this provision in conjunction with the Agriculture Committee.

I ask the Senator from Missouri if my understanding of this jurisdictional matter is correct.

Mr. BOND. I agree with the Senator from Massachusetts that we have reached that understanding.

Mr. KENNEDY. I thank my friend.

Mr. SANTORUM. I ask unanimous consent the amendments be agreed, to en bloc.

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

The amendments (Nos. 5148 and 5149) were agreed to, en bloc.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be deemed read the third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 2428) was deemed read the third time and passed.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate supported overwhelmingly the passage of H.R. 2428, the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act.

This is a tremendous tribute to my good friend and colleague from Missouri, Congressman Bill Emerson, who represented southeast Missouri's Eighth Congressional District for 16 years. Bill Emerson was well known in this body, and certainly to many around this city, and was loved by the people of southeast Missouri. He had a long and distinguished career of service in the U.S. Congress.

Bill was especially well known for his work in agriculture and in the fight against hunger, including being an ardent supporter of food distribution programs. One of his legislative priorities this session was a bill that would make it easier for millions of tons of unused food by restaurants, supermarkets, and other private businesses to end up in food pantries and shelters rather than in garbage cans and dumpsters.

The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act is identical to legislation championed by Bill Emerson before his death. In the past, private donors have been reluctant to make contributions to nonprofit organizations because they are concerned about potential civil and criminal liability. With this legislation, private donors will be protected from such liability, except in cases of gross negligence and intentional misconduct. Those in need will truly benefit from this legislation.

Again, I am happy to be a part of this commonsense approach to fight hun-

ger, and I appreciate the cooperation of all Members involved in this process.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I want to say this bill was a long time coming. We have been hassling through a variety of different amendments. I want to thank Senator LEAHY, Senator KENNEDY, and others for their cooperation in finally getting this bill to pass.

This is a bill that really is a tribute to a friend of mine and many here in this body, Bill Emerson, who recently passed away after a long bout with cancer. Bill did tremendous work in the area of nutrition on the Agriculture Committee in the House. This is a fitting tribute, a bill that will bear his name, that will provide much more food for food banks to be able to feed needy families all over this country.

I am very proud to have been involved with this effort. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mrs. HUTCHISON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

HOMEMAKER IRA'S

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I want to say, along with many others who have talked about some of the really important legislation that has been accomplished in the last few weeks in Congress, along with the one that I have worked the hardest for, and the one that I think will have a lasting impact, not tomorrow and not next year, but 20 years from now, and that is the homemaker IRA's.

When I got to the Senate, I was very surprised that there was still the inequity against homemakers being able to save for their retirement security in the same way that someone who works outside the home is now able to do. In fact, this penalizes the one-income-earner family when the homemaker stays home and raises children. I think we should be encouraging homemakers to be able to do that, rather than discouraging them. That is why Senator MIKULSKI and I introduced the homemaker IRA bill in 1993.

We have been working for these 3 years, and this year, Senator ROTH, the chairman of the Finance Committee took up our cause. He and Chairman BILL ARCHER said that this would be a priority for them, and I want to thank Chairman ARCHER and Chairman ROTH for not only saying it would be a priority, but for delivering on that promise. They have delivered homemakers of this country an equal opportunity to save for their retirement security.

What this means, Mr. President, is that a homemaker will now be able to set aside \$2,000 a year toward retirement security, accruing tax-free. That can make a difference of over \$150,000 in a lifetime of savings, so that now a one-income-earner couple, if they both save the maximum amount for 30 years, would have around \$350,000 as a nest egg. That could make a big difference in retirement planning, espe-

cially for people who are squeezing to make ends meet so that one parent can stay home and raise the children.

So this is a wonderful accomplishment. It is one for which will not be appreciated, probably, in the near future because it does have to accrue into retirement. But this was a great bipartisan effort.

I do want to commend Senator LOTT for helping us move this through. I want to commend Senator ROTH and Congressman ARCHER for shepherding it through the committees in the House and Senate. I just want to say how much I appreciate Senator MIKULSKI, Senator FEINSTEIN, NANCY JOHNSON, and JENNIFER DUNN and SUSAN MOLINARI on the House side, along with BARBARA KENNELLY, for making sure that this did become an accomplishment of this session of Congress.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

Mr. COATS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, in a moment, I am going to propound a unanimous-consent request that we move to the conference report to accompany H.R. 3230, the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1997. I note the absence of members of the other party on the floor. Obviously, they will want to be notified of this. I do not intend to pull any surprises here. I will be propounding that UC in a few moments.

The reason I do this, Mr. President, is that we have worked long and hard and very diligently this year to avoid the problems that we encountered last year in not moving the defense authorization bill for fiscal year 1996 as quickly as we would have liked. There were some issues that were contentious, and we had difficulty resolving some of those issues.

There was a determination on the part of the chairman and members of the committee this year to avoid the problem we had last year. I commend Senator THURMOND for the extraordinary work that he led in bringing this item to closure in a timely fashion. We held hearings earlier than we ever have, we held markups earlier than we ever have—at least since I have been on the committee—and we moved forward in an extraordinarily efficient way. We resolved the contentious issues and the differences between Members and between our parties on those issues, and we have legislation which now has passed both the House and Senate, and we have a conference report that we ought to be prepared to vote on.

Now, the reason why this is so important is that within this conference report are a number of significant items that are important to the security of