

State and the Federal Government working together to solve the real problems of providing quality education.

This is a real issue here. Today, as I understand it, some Members on the House side announced yet another proposal to repeal Goals 2000. They did so by making a statement about how this is a first step toward eliminating Federal involvement in education. Madam President, this is not the burning issue, this issue of eliminating Federal involvement. It is not the burning issue in my State. The issue is how do we get the resources and the support to educate our children in the way we believe they should be educated.

In a State like mine, which is growing, student enrollment is also growing. It is estimated by the year 2002 we will have 20,000 additional students in my State. These are students who we are not presently planning funding to support.

We need technology in our schools. I think everybody here, the Presiding Officer, has been a leader in trying to assist schools in obtaining technology to improve education.

We need to put our money where our mouth is on this issue of technology for education, and begin here at the Federal level to support local school districts and States in their efforts to obtain technology and upgrade the quality of education through the use of technology.

We simply have to do more than the House has proposed to do. In my view, I am encouraged that there have been negotiations. I am encouraged there seems to be a bipartisan consensus to restore funds to a previous level in most areas. Frankly, Madam President, I believe we need to do better than this bipartisan discussion seems to be taking us.

As I understand it, the majority leader has an amendment he will offer in this area. It should be praised in several respects. It is strong in such areas as special education grants to the States and title I funding and several smaller student aid programs. However, as I understand the amendment, it would be at a level of \$2.3 billion, which is still substantially less than the \$3.1 billion that Senator HARKIN would propose in his alternative amendment. By cutting away at some of those funds that Senator HARKIN would provide, it keeps us from addressing some key areas.

In particular, as I understand it, the Lott amendment provides no additional funds for key programs such as the Goals 2000 Program, for bilingual education, for school-to-work, for teacher training, for the TRIO Program, nor does the Lott amendment provide \$68 million in additional funds the Department needs to continue its very successful direct lending program. This amendment also fails to increase education technology programs to the same extent that the Harkin amendment would. In addition, the Lott

amendment would appear to not include any additional funding for Head Start or job training programs.

As I understand the Harkin amendment, in contrast, it increases spending levels for key programs well beyond the previous year's level in the committee bill or in the Lott amendment. There is \$136 million more for Goals 2000, \$77 million for bilingual and immigrant education, \$227 million more for education technology programs. Clearly, those are very important to us as we approach the new century.

Cutting, freezing, or even reluctantly supporting minor increases in education funding is simply the wrong way to go, in my opinion. We need some restructuring in our schools. All of the problems in our schools cannot be solved by additional resources. That is clear. We need smaller schools. We need better trained teachers. We need to have classrooms that are better equipped. Clearly, funding is part of the solution. Just as funding is part of the solution to improving and modernizing our defense capability, adequate resources are part of the solution to improving and upgrading the quality of education for our students.

I hope very much, Madam President, before the Congress adjourns, we can get a chance here on the floor of the Senate to vote for a level of funding which is equal to what the President requested in education. I do not think his request was in any way excessive. It still keeps us at about 1.5 percent of the official budget. It is a very modest increase by any measure. I believe that is consistent with what the American people would like to see in the area of education.

I hope, very much, that we will have a chance to vote on that level which is represented by the Harkin amendment. I urge my colleagues to support that. I know it is consistent with the people I speak to in my home State. I believe it is consistent with the majority view throughout this country.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I submit a report of the committee of conference on H.R. 3675 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The report will be stated.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the

amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3675) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by a majority of the conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of September 16, 1996.)

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I understand the managers of the legislation are on their way here. The Senator from New Jersey will be here momentarily. We will proceed at that time.

For now, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KEMPTHORNE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE RETURNED TO THE CALENDAR—S. 1994

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 1994 be returned to the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997—CONFERENCE REPORT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the conference report.

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I understand the conference report on the Transportation Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee is now before us.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. HATFIELD. I move that the Senate adopt the conference report.

Mr. President, I withhold making that motion at this time.

Mr. President, we are here to present the conference report, myself and Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG, representing the State of New Jersey and the ranking member of the Transportation Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee. We have enjoyed a marvelous working relationship, and I take another opportunity to thank Senator LAUTENBERG for his fine support. His contribution has been great. We have had not only a wonderful working relationship, but we enjoy a deep personal friendship as well, by which I am blessed.