

a rollcall vote to see who is for it and who is against it.

It is rare for such a broad and diverse coalition to come together in support of legislation. But they have done so to end the flagrant abuses that hurt so many families. The choice is clear. The Senate should stand with patients, families and physicians, not the well-heeled special interests that put profits ahead of patients.

The American people know what is going on. Movie audiences across the country erupt in cheers when actress Helen Hunt attacks the abuses of managed care in the film "As Good As It Gets." Helen Hunt won an Oscar for that performance, but managed care is not winning any Oscars from the American people. Everyone knows that managed care today is not as good as it gets.

It is time for Congress to end the abuses of patients and physicians by HMOs and managed care health plans. Too often, managed care is mismanaged care. No amount of distortions or smokescreens by insurance companies can change those facts. A Patients' Bill of Rights can stop these abuses, and let's pass it before more patients have to suffer.

We want to tell our friends on the other side of the aisle that they are going to see this amendment day after day after day after day, until this body has a chance to debate it and vote on it. Let me give the assurance of that.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWNBACK). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask that I be allowed to proceed as in morning business.

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

DEBATING THE HEALTH CARE BILL

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I know there has been some brouhaha this afternoon about not being able to debate a health care bill, and I came down here earlier today to talk about the bill we were on, the VA-HUD bill, an extremely important piece of legislation that was set regularly on this agenda. Amendments were being offered to it. Everybody has known for some time that we were going to be dealing with health care and managed care and HMOs and that sort of thing. It is certainly going to be coming up on our agenda when the time is right, and everybody will have full opportunity to debate that issue. I hope we do. I expect we can make some improvement in our health care policy in America.

But the bill that we were on was important. I submit it was a political act by people in this body to derail where we were going, to introduce onto the VA-HUD bill this kind of massive change in agenda to try to create a debate on health care when this body was on another item. That is what the majority leader is for, to try to set agenda in a rational way. He has done that. We are going to be on health care later, but we should have stayed on the bill that we were on.

NASA

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I am disappointed the administration has seen fit to reduce NASA's budget by \$183 million this year. Frankly, I think it ought to be increased. I would like to share a couple of thoughts about that with the Members of this body and the people who may be listening.

From 1983 to 1992, NASA's budget went up from \$7 to \$14 billion. That is less than 1 percent of the national budget in this country, but that was a significant increase. During that time, they made two planetary launches. In the last number of years, that budget has seen a significant reduction. In fact, according to a committee that was formed in 1991, a committee on the future of space formed by President Bush, they had the expenditures for NASA going up to as high as \$40 or \$50 billion. As it turned out, under the previously agreed-upon budget for NASA, we should be at about \$16 or \$18 billion. In fact, that budget has been cut every year, and over the last 5 years they have sustained a \$27 billion reduction in what was projected for their budget even under our last budget agreement.

People say, "Jeff, that is just numbers; it doesn't mean much." NASA has cut its employees since 1993 by 25 percent. They have cut their employees 25 percent. There is no agency in this American Government that has done a better job of producing more for less than they have.

In fact, the fiscal year 1994 budget for NASA was \$14.5 billion, and the fiscal year 1998 for NASA is \$13.6 billion.

During this same time, they have been sustaining these substantial losses in income. They are now making planetary launches one every 10 weeks. Whereas they used to do two planetary launches in 9 years, they are now doing them one every 10 weeks, even though their budget is down and employees are down 25 percent. They are doing some remarkable things.

Last July 4, the Martian lander landed, and we saw those vivid photographs that were shipped all over the world. The American people and the people of the world stood in amazement as we saw the actual ground of the planet Mars. It was an exciting time. My family and I watched that in our home with amazement and pride at what this country had accomplished.

Let me point this out: 20 years before, we had done another Martian

landing. We had not had one in 20 years. The Martian landing 20 years before, in actual dollars, cost 10 times as much as the one last year. They were able to accomplish this landing last year for one-tenth of the cost 20 years before.

This is the kind of achievement that is important for our country. The whole world watched it. Mr. Dan Goldin, who directs the NASA program, told us that they had more hits on their web site from around the world than they even had in the United States. It was by far the biggest single time of people tuning in to the NASA web site from all over the world.

The world was watching America. We are the leader in space. We need to remain the leader in space. We are a nation of explorers. That is our heart and soul. That is our national characteristic. We have explored this Earth pretty well. We are now exploring the heavens. We need to continue forward with that.

Sure, the space station has gone over, but from the numbers I have just told you, even though the space station has cost more than it should—and a lot of that is involved with trying to work with the Russians, who have not been very effective in fulfilling their portion of it, and we need to evaluate that—everything else they have been doing has been doing more for less.

We are going to be able to continue to have repeat launches at less cost and more success and highly technical launches that can bring us the kind of science and improvements in our life that can benefit the entire world. This is the kind of thing with which America needs to be involved. I am excited about it.

I wish we were still on that bill. I had some things to say about it. We are going to handle health care as we go down the road, but I think it is important for the people of America to note that we moved off that bill because the other party sought to change the agenda that was set, to go off on an entirely new tangent, attaching to this bill an entirely different subject matter that requires a great deal of debate and discussion. That was not the appropriate thing to do, and the majority leader did the only thing he could, which is pull down the bill.

Mr. President, I thank you for this time, and I yield the floor. 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. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, July 6, 1998, the federal debt stood at

\$5,529,920,619,100.92 (Five trillion, five hundred twenty-nine billion, nine hundred twenty million, six hundred ninety-two thousand, one hundred dollars and ninety-two cents).

Five years ago, July 6, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,337,116,000,000 (Four trillion, three hundred thirty-seven billion, one hundred sixteen million).

Ten years ago, July 6, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,554,838,000,000 (Two trillion, five hundred fifty-four billion, eight hundred thirty-eight million).

Fifteen years ago, July 6, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,328,674,000,000 (One trillion, three hundred twenty-eight billion, six hundred seventy-four million).

Twenty-five years ago, July 6, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$454,404,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-four billion, four hundred four million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,075,516,619,100.92 (Five trillion, seventy-five billion, five hundred sixteen million, six hundred nineteen thousand, one hundred dollars and ninety-two cents) during the past 25 years.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the President Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING RECESS

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 7, 1997, the Secretary of the Senate, on July 7, 1998, during the recess of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolution:

S. 731. An act to extend the legislative authority for construction of the National Peace Garden memorial, and for other purposes.

H.R. 651. An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act for construction of a hydroelectric project located in the State of Washington, and for other purposes.

H.R. 848. An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of the AuSable Hydroelectric Project in New York, and for other purposes.

H.R. 960. An act to validate certain conveyances in the City of Tulare, Tulare County, California, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1184. An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act for the construction of the Bear Creek Hydroelectric

Project in the State of Washington, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1217. An act to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act for construction of a hydroelectric project located in the State of Washington, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2202. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the bone marrow donor program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2864. An act requiring the Secretary of Labor to establish a program under which employers may consult with State officials respecting compliance with occupational safety and health requirements.

H.R. 2877. An act to amend the Occupational Health Act of 1970.

H.R. 3035. An act to establish an advisory commission to provide advice and recommendations on the creation of an integrated, coordinated Federal policy designed to prepare for and respond to serious drought emergencies.

H.R. —. An act to provide for an alternative penalty procedure for States that fail to meet Federal child support data processing requirements, to reform Federal incentive payments for effective child support performance, to provide for a more flexible penalty procedure for States that violate interjurisdictional adoption requirements, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 113. Joint resolution approving the location of a Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial in the Nation's Capital.

The enrolled bills and joint resolution were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2431. An act to establish an Office of Religious Persecution Monitoring, to provide for the imposition of sanctions against countries engaged in a pattern of religious persecution, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3150. An act to amend title 11, of the United States Code, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication was laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC 5802. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Comprehensive Electricity Competition Act"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S.J. Res. 44. A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the rights of crime victims.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. 2265. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare coverage of individuals disabled with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), to provide Medicare coverage of drugs used for treatment of ALS, and to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase Federal funding for research on ALS; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THURMOND (for himself and Mr. HELMS):

S. 2266. A bill to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to exempt State and local agencies operating prisons from the provisions relating to public services; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. D'AMATO (for himself and Mr. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2267. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to grant relief to participants in multiemployer plans from certain section 415 limits on defined benefit pension plans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 2268. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the research and experimentation tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. D'AMATO (for himself and Mr. TORRICELLI):

S. 2269. A bill to establish a cultural and training program for disadvantaged individuals from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. FAIRCLOTH:

S. 2270. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act with respect to raising the level of the Deposit Insurance Fund reserve ratio and with respect to refunds of excess assessments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for Mr. HATCH):

S. 2271. A bill to simplify and expedite access to the Federal courts for injured parties whose rights and privileges, secured by the United States Constitution, have been deprived by final actions of Federal agencies, or other government officials or entities acting under color of State law, and for other purposes; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. HELMS, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MACK, Mr. GORTON, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. BOND, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. KEMP-THORNE, Mr. KYL, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BURNS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. Con. Res. 107. A concurrent resolution affirming United States commitments to Taiwan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself and Mr. WELLSTONE):