

hard. What is happening in our society today is people are working hard at the very bottom levels. I think the least we can do in this incredible economic climate that so many of us are benefiting from is to raise that minimum wage, save Medicare, help our seniors, pay down the debt, help the future, pass these safety provisions so our kids are safe in school, and pass a Patients' Bill of Rights. We have a watered down bill in the Senate but they are going to pass a good one in the House. Get them into conference and pass it, bring it out.

Finally, campaign finance reform is so important. Of all these issues I have mentioned, I am sad to say our majority leader has only put one on the agenda for his must-do list. That is campaign finance reform. I am glad it is there. It is there because there was a threat to shut down this place if it wasn't on there, but I am glad it is on the list. All of these other things are not there.

What is worse, when you look at the most important thing the Republican majority wants to do, it is going to hurt all these other things, because it is a huge tax cut of \$800 billion that is going to help the people at the upper echelons and hurt everyone else. There won't be any money for Medicare. There won't be any money to save that program. There won't be any money to pay down the debt so we can be good to our grandchildren and their children. There won't be anything for education. There won't be anything for the environment.

I say to my friends, let's do what the people want us to do. Let us take care of business.

There was an extraordinary field poll done in California. I think it is very instructive, and it is amazing in the scope of what it said.

It said that more than 80 percent of the people of California agreed with the President's approach to the budget, which, as we know, is to take that surplus and use a third of it for tax cuts for the middle class, a third of it for Medicare, and a third of it for education, the environment, health research. Now, this means the majority of Republicans agree with the President on this point.

I think we have a golden opportunity to come together on issues that mean a lot to the people: school safety, a Patients' Bill of Rights, campaign finance reform, raising the minimum wage, saving Medicare, paying down the debt, targeted tax relief to the middle class, not to those at the very top who are doing very well.

And the reason I shared the survey with you on the poverty in Los Angeles is that while the economy is terrific and is going very well in California, the gap between the rich and the poor is growing mightily. Those of us who care about our fellow human beings cannot turn our backs on this, regardless of our party, because it is a recipe for problems in the future.

Mr. President, I thank you for your indulgence. I know my colleague, Senator DORGAN, has a lot to say on these and other matters. Again, I compliment my friends who are taking the lead on the East Timor situation. We have unfinished business to do. Let's get it done and do it across the party aisle and go home proud of our accomplishments.

I yield the floor.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the order of the Senate on July 22, the Senate having received H.R. 2670, the Senate will proceed to the bill, all after the enacting clause is stricken, the text of S. 1217 is inserted, H.R. 2670 is read the third time and passed, the Senate insists on its amendment, requests a conference with the House, and the Chair appoints Mr. GREGG, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. HUTCHISON of Texas, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. BYRD conferees on the part of the Senate.

(The text of S. 1217 is printed in the RECORD of July 27, 1999)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, on October 6, 7, and 8, there will be a meeting in Vienna, Austria. It will be among countries that have ratified something called the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. That treaty is embodied in this document I hold in my hand.

Now, what is the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty? It is a treaty negotiated by a number of countries around the world; 152 countries, in fact, have signed the treaty and 44 countries have ratified the treaty. It is a treaty designed to prohibit any further explosive testing of nuclear weapons anywhere in the world, at any time, under any condition.

This treaty ought to be an easy treaty for this country and this Senate to ratify. But we have not done so. At a time when India and Pakistan explode nuclear weapons literally under each other's chins—these are two countries that don't like each other—at a time when we have evidence of more proliferation of nuclear weapons into the hands of countries that want access to nuclear weapons with which to, in some cases, defend themselves, perhaps in other cases to terrorize the rest of the world, this country ought to be exhibiting leadership. It is our moral responsibility to provide leadership in the world on these issues. This country ought to provide leadership on the issue of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

We have not ratified this treaty. At the meeting in Vienna, countries that have ratified it will participate in discussing the implementation of this treaty, and this country will not be an active participant. Great Britain, Belgium, Germany, Canada, Italy, Norway, Poland, and France will be but we will not. We are the largest nuclear superpower on Earth and we have not ratified this treaty.

What about nuclear weapons and nuclear war? I was in the presence of a nuclear weapon recently at a military installation. If you stand a foot or two away from a nuclear weapon and look at it, it is a relatively small canister-looking device that, upon explosion, will devastate portions of our Earth.

Going back nearly 40 years to an address by John F. Kennedy, he said something about nuclear weapons. In fact, he quoted Nikita Khrushchev:

Since the beginning of history, war has been mankind's constant companion. It has been the rule, not the exception. Even a nation as young and as peace-loving as our own has fought through eight wars. A war today or tomorrow, if it led to nuclear war, would not be like any war in history. A full-scale nuclear exchange, lasting less than 60 minutes, with the weapons now in existence, could wipe out more than 300 million Americans, Europeans, and Russians, as well as untold numbers elsewhere. And the survivors, as Chairman Khrushchev warned the Communist Chinese, "the survivors would envy the dead." For they would inherit a world so devastated by explosions and poison and fire that today we cannot even conceive of its horrors.

This country and Russia have 30,000 nuclear weapons between them. Other countries want nuclear weapons, and they want them badly. To the extent that any other country cannot test nuclear weapons, no one will know whether they have a nuclear weapon that works. No one will have certainty that they have access to nuclear weaponry. That is why the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is so critical.

Now, where is it? Well, it is here in the Senate. It has been here 716 days, with not even 1 day of hearings. Not one. Virtually every other treaty sent to the Senate has been given a hearing and has been brought to the Senate floor and debated and voted upon. The issue of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the stopping of explosive testing of nuclear weapons is not important enough to be brought to the Senate floor for a debate. It has been over 700 days. Not 1 day of hearings.

In October, this country, which ought to be the moral leader on this issue, will not be present as a ratified member at the implementing meetings for this treaty. Shame on us. We have a responsibility to do this. There are big issues and small issues in this Congress. This is a big issue and cannot be avoided.

Now, I am not here to cast aspersions on any Member of the Senate. But I waited here this morning to have the majority leader come to the floor—and he was not able to come to the floor—to describe the agenda this week. When