

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), TRAVEL AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION OF SENATORS MIKULSKI AND BROWNBACK FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 6 TO JAN. 9, 2001

| Name and country | Name of currency | Per diem | | Transportation | | Miscellaneous | | Total | |
|--|------------------|------------------|---|------------------|---|------------------|---|------------------|---|
| | | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency | Foreign currency | U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency |
| Senator Barbara Mikulski: Italy | Lire | | 700.04 | | | | | | 700.04 |
| Senator Sam Brownback: Italy | Lire | | 968.36 | | | | | | 968.36 |
| Senator Frank H. Murkowski: Italy | Lire | | 968.36 | | | | | | 968.36 |
| Senator Bob Smith: Italy | Lire | | 946.57 | | | | | | 946.57 |
| Senator Rick Santorum: Italy | Lire | | 968.36 | | | | | | 968.36 |
| Senator Mary Landrieu: Italy | Lire | | 968.36 | | | | | | 968.36 |
| Senator Susan Collins: Italy | Lire | | 602.23 | | | | | | 602.23 |
| Dr. Lloyd J. Ogilvie: Italy | Lire | | 863.26 | | | | | | 863.26 |
| Rob Wasinger: Italy | Lire | | 700.04 | | | | | | 700.04 |
| Delegation Expenses: ¹ Italy | Lire | | | | | | 13,888.97 | | 13,888.97 |
| Total | | | 7,685.58 | | | | 13,888.97 | | 21,574.55 |

¹ Delegation expenses include direct payments and reimbursements to the Department of State and the Department of Defense under authority of sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179, agreed to May 25, 1977.

TRENT LOTT, Majority Leader,
TOM DASCHLE, Democratic Leader,
Mar. 31, 2001.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORZINE). Morning business is closed.

BETTER EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

An original bill (S. 1) to extend programs and activities under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

Pending:

Jeffords amendment No. 358 in the nature of a substitute.

Craig amendment No. 372 (to amendment No. 358), to tie funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improved student performance.

Kennedy modified amendment No. 375 (to amendment No. 358), to express the sense of the Senate regarding, and to authorize appropriations for title II, part A, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, with respect to the development of high-qualified teachers.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome the opportunity to be back on this extremely important piece of legislation on which many of us, on both sides of the aisle, have worked on these past weeks. With the leadership of President Bush, we have made every

kind of effort, because of the importance of education, to try to find common ground.

We remember very well the debates and discussions we had a little over a year ago when we were at such odds and unable to move ahead with the reauthorization bill. The other side wanted to abolish the Department of Education. How far we have come. Now we are together with a unanimous vote out of our Committee to move this reauthorization bill forward, although there are those who still have some concerns about the legislation they have spoken to in these past days and will speak to as we continue to debate this legislation over the course of this week and I expect coming into next week as well.

We all understand this legislation is really about our future. It is called the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, but it really is a recognition that we have 20 percent of our children in this country living in poverty and about 50 percent of those are eligible for coverage by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

We are trying to bring some focus and attention to these children in their early years so they will be able to be a part of the great American dream. We recognize if they do not get off to a Head Start or Early Start or Smart Start, and they are not qualified when they go to school, not able to learn, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for them to go through the education system and continue to develop

skills in college or afterwards, or in alternative training programs, and be a part of a new economy in the United States and throughout the world.

All of us understand that in many respects, of all the things we are going to do this year, this debate will say more about what kind of country we are going to be in 10 or 15 years than anything else we do. This debate is about the future. This is about our children. This is about the seriousness with which we, at this time in American history, are prepared to invest in those children to give them the opportunity to be a part of our society.

We cannot knock down all the walls of unfairness in our society, but one thing we know for sure: If a child does not start off with the ability to learn and is not challenged in those early years of education, it is difficult to believe they will be equipped to play a meaningful role in our society.

In many respects this is a defining issue. It is a defining value of our country. Do we really believe in equality for our people? All Americans understand the very special role of public education in our society and what a difference it has made to our greatness as nation. We, in each generation, have to find ways to make sure that playing field is going to be fair and equal and that those children who will be coming up all across this Nation, and their families, can have confidence in our public school system. That ought to be generally applicable for children from