

Senator MOYNIHAN also had the nerve to say—I think he said, that we should have, an accurate CPI. Again, a lot of people do not want to touch that. But we should have an accurate CPI. If we have a balanced budget or if we have a surplus or a deficit, we should have an accurate CPI. And, yes, there are significant savings in that proposal as well.

He talked about some other things, talking about increasing the retirement dates. That is not real popular maybe with a lot of people, but, frankly, you have to look at the actuarial analysis of Social Security. Social Security has big, big problems. Although I have some reservations, I think my colleague from New York has taken some giant steps in the right direction.

I understand there is a little tax increase on the personal income tax side. I would like to see if we can do it without that. Transitionally we may have some challenges. I would very much like to get the percentage up from 2 percent. Actually, right now an individual pays 12.4 percent of their payroll for Social Security up to \$68,000, \$68,400, I believe. I would like to be able to get half of that into an individual's personal savings account where they can really see some rewards. That is over \$9,000 that an individual, if they make \$68,000, is paying in Social Security today. It would be nice if they could put half or at least a significant portion of that into their own retirement account where they can watch it grow, where they can invest it. They could be very cautious in their investments and invest it in T bills if they so desired or invest it in stocks or they can invest it in bonds. They would have those options.

I would like to give them the maximum amount of options that we give people for 401(k)s, that we give people for IRAs, that we give Senate employees through thrift plans and so on. I would like to give all American taxpayers that option so we can have a lot of millionaires, a lot of people driving a truck in Nebraska or Oklahoma becoming millionaires by the time they retire so they will not become dependent, frankly, on an unfunded pay-go system like we have right now into which their children will be paying enormous sums in the future.

I think you hear a lot of people trying to sell programs by using kids. I think we need to be very, very concerned about future liabilities in Social Security for our kids. How in the world will they be able to make those payments if we do not reform the system? Senator MOYNIHAN had a chart out there that said the payroll tax would have to go up astronomically. I do not think that is fair for our kids.

Maybe we can alleviate that pressure if we allow individuals now, before they hit their retirement age, to be able to set up these personal savings accounts and be able to reap decent rates of return and become less dependent on their children and grandchildren for their future retirement benefits.

Conceptually, I commend my colleagues on their work, and I think you will find strong bipartisanship support for working together to see if we cannot make this concept of making funded capitalized personal savings accounts a part of every individual's Social Security for the future. We will work to try to make that a reality in America.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, may I take a moment to thank the distinguished deputy majority leader. I couldn't be more grateful. If there are auspices, his comments make them very good indeed.

I yield the floor.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### EDUCATION SAVINGS ACT FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2646, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2646) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax-free expenditures from education individual retirement accounts for elementary and secondary school expenses, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ROTH addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 2019

(Purpose: To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax-free expenditures from education individual retirement accounts for elementary and secondary school expenses, to increase the maximum annual amount of contributions to such accounts, and for other purposes)

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Delaware [Mr. ROTH] proposes an amendment numbered 2019.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and it be consid-

ered original text for the purpose of further amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2019) was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I congratulate the chairman of the Finance Committee, as well as Senator COVERDELL, for crafting such a bipartisan amendment. As always, while it may not always have the vote of the ranking member, he is always cooperative and considerate in how he deals with legislation coming out of the Finance Committee. So I really appreciate the work done by Senator ROTH, Senator MOYNIHAN, Senator COVERDELL, and Senator TORRICELLI, in getting this bipartisan initiative to this point.

The amendment includes three major Democratic initiatives that are also supported by a majority on this side of the aisle—those being the school construction section that has been aggressively pursued by Senator GRAHAM of Florida, Senator FEINSTEIN of California, and others. A lot of work went into that by Senator COVERDELL and Senator ROTH, once again. It also includes the State prepaid tuition initiative in which I believe Senator BREAU, Senator GRAHAM, and others have been interested. I also have been supportive of that initiative in the past. I believe Senator MOYNIHAN also has had an interest in that. Finally, it also includes the employer-paid higher education provision. This is something I believe is referred to as section 127, which Senator MOYNIHAN talked about.

I think that anything we can do to make it possible for parents, grandparents, and supporters of scholarships in education to be able to be more involved and to save for their children's education, not only higher education, but K through 12, elementary and secondary, to be able to take advantage of a prepaid tuition initiative so that that can be done to help children get into college and deal with what quite often is a pretty high tuition cost when they first go in, or deal with the costs of their graduate education and those expenses should be done. These are all good things because we need to do everything we can in America to make it possible for our children to get an education, whether that's elementary and secondary, higher education, or trade school training, vocational education, whatever it is. So we need to look at all of those across the board.

I continue to be concerned about the poor test scores of our children at the elementary and secondary levels. I continue to look at the fact that our higher education is the best in the world and wonder why that is true when our elementary and secondary education levels are quite often very low. In fact, I saw one statistic recently that we are 19th in the world. Why? Why can't our children write in the fourth grade and read and understand basic science when they are in the eighth grade? I think

this Coverdell A+ program will help with getting tutoring, or getting computers for children in the fourth grade or eighth grade, or make it a choice to go to a different school, and being able to save a little bit for that option.

So I think all of these programs are good. I think it will be good for us to spend some time talking about education in America, thinking together about how we can improve it. I think one of the problems with education in America at the K through 12 level is that we have been thinking it has to fit in this box, it has to be done this way, without choice, without financial assistance, and without teacher testing, and without really dealing with the drug problems. We need to begin to ask ourselves, can we do it differently? Can we offer other options? Can we provide financial assistance for parents with children in the eighth grade who have special needs? I think this legislation will begin to take us in that direction.

So I am proud that we are reaching the point, hopefully, where we can get into debating the substance of the legislation. I understand there are some colleagues on the Democratic side of the aisle who are interested in offering amendments. That is fine. I hope they will offer amendments when we get to the substance of the bill that relates to education. I understand that some of these amendments would be non-germane, which would be in extraneous areas not related to this. We will have other opportunities—in the budget resolution and in appropriations bills—to have amendments on Social Security, and there are a lot of good thoughts going into the Social Security area now. The Senator from New York made a presentation this past week that is very interesting and thoughtful. We ought to get into that. But we should not do it on this education bill. Let's have some talk about education and how we can improve education in America.

Now, I had offered, last week, the idea that the Democratic leader would perhaps want to develop a substitute, an alternative to this package, in the education area. I think he gave some thought to that. But he concluded that maybe it could not be done last week. So I called him again last night and said, "Would you like to do a substitute and have that considered on Wednesday or Thursday, and then we would go to the substance of the bill on Friday?" The indication was that he did not want to do the substitute. I even talked about, "Could we do some process where we would have a limited number of amendments that relate to education?" Again, he indicated that he didn't think he could do that.

So before I file cloture today, I want to offer, once again, to do it that way, have a substitute. I have discussed that with several Democrats who are supportive of the Coverdell bill. They thought that would be a fair way to proceed, to have an alternative package, debate that and vote on it, and

then go to the Coverdell A+ education savings account proposals with these additions. But I understand that can't be agreed to. I wanted to make the offer not once or twice, but three times, to have a substitute or even have some limited amendments relating to education.

If I could ask the ranking member, on behalf of the leader, who is unavoidably detained at this time, is it not possible for us to get an agreement that would allow us to go to the substitute arrangement or some limited number of amendments related only to education at this time?

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I cannot speak with the authority of the minority leader, who is necessarily detained. It won't be that long before he can be here. I will have to offer my impression, regretfully, that that would not be possible.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Senator from New York. I regret that we can't agree on what I think would be a fair and orderly way to move into the bill that is very important for the discussion of education in America.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, in order to keep the focus on the education measure, I now send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.R. 2646, the A+ Education Act:

Trent Lott, Paul Coverdell, Jeff Sessions, Connie Mack, Bill Roth, Judd Gregg, Christopher Bond, Tim Hutchinson, Larry E. Craig, Robert F. Bennett, Mike DeWine, Jim Inhofe, Bill Frist, Bob Smith, Wayne Allard, Pat Roberts.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send a second cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provision of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.R. 2646, the A+ Education Act:

Trent Lott, Paul Coverdell, Jeff Sessions, Connie Mack, Bill Roth, Judd Gregg, Christopher Bond, Tim Hutchinson, Larry E. Craig, Robert F. Bennett, Mike DeWine, Jim Inhofe, Bill Frist, Bob Smith, Wayne Allard, Pat Roberts.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the action just taken will result in a cloture vote occurring on Friday, March 20, or Thursday, if a consent agreement can be reached for an earlier vote. I know some Senators are hopeful that we can have this vote Thursday afternoon, late, instead of Friday morning. We would be willing to work to see if we can get an agreement with the minority leader on getting that vote on Thursday afternoon. If the first cloture

vote is not successful, then a second cloture vote would occur on Friday, or on Thursday, if we can get that arranged.

I will, of course, notify all Members as to exactly when these cloture votes would occur. However, in the meantime, I ask that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived for both cloture votes.

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, will the majority leader yield?

Mr. LOTT. I would be glad to yield to Senator KENNEDY.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am interested in a brief review of what is in the proposal of the majority leader. I am interested in whether the proposal that is included in the submission that we have now here is the proposal that would provide the funding for projects of private companies for the building and the construction of private schools. The limitation on any State would be approximately \$5 million. That is my understanding of at least what would be included in the Republican proposal, which is a pale shadow of what I think most of us understand would be the Moseley-Braun proposal, which would provide much more dramatic health assistance to public schools. I am just interested in that. Is my understanding correct?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if the Senator will allow me to reclaim my time to respond, I believe that this provision applies to public schools. There is a package that was very carefully drafted at the urging of Senator GRAHAM of Florida. But to make sure that I have an accurate understanding of this content, would the Senator from Georgia, Senator COVERDELL, like to comment further on that provision?

Mr. KENNEDY. Privately owned public schools is my question. Is the relevant provisions that are related to school construction and modernization limited to privately owned public schools?

Mr. LOTT. I yield to the Senator from Georgia.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, if I might respond, at the appropriate time we will have Senator GRAHAM of Florida, who has been integral to the negotiations, respond to the Senator's questions. But currently, public schools can use tax-exempt bonds for construction.

I believe that I can conceptually characterize Senator GRAHAM's interest in that he wanted to add to the category or the function that allows funding for airports where you could have a private company do the construction for the public system for the public good and lease the facility to the public school district after a certain period of time, which would follow into ownership. Senator GRAHAM's objective was to create an extended ability for public school systems to have financing for the construction of their schools.

So he is basically expanding the capacity for public school districts to

fund construction of the new schools. The construct of the amendment caps that facility because of the sums of money that are available, and it also has the facility to aid and abet large growth districts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Am I also correct that there is a limitation of some \$5 million per State?

Mr. COVERDELL. No. It is \$10 per resident, but at a minimum of \$5 million, if the \$5 million is greater.

Mr. KENNEDY. I appreciate the leader responding. I just wanted to mention that it is a proposal in support of the Senator from New York, because there are different approaches on the question of the modernization and the reconstruction of the public schools. Senator GRAHAM has a proposal. It has been included in the proposal. Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN has a very interesting proposal. But, as I understand it, they will be precluded. Would they be precluded from having that be considered under the cloture motion?

Mr. COVERDELL. If the Senator will yield, I believe the majority leader has properly characterized what the discussions have been between both leaders. The majority leader has said the other side can offer its package, which could include Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN's, or not, or we could agree on a set number of amendments for each side, so long as they are germane to education, which, of course, should embrace the Senator's idea as well.

So there are at least two separate suggestions being discussed between leaders that would facilitate the opportunity of the Senator from Illinois to bring her proposal into the debate.

Mr. KENNEDY. I appreciate that. Effectively we are being told if we do not accept the way it is being packaged they won't have an opportunity to have a debate on these very important measures in terms of achieving what the majority leader has pointed out. I am wondering, the amendment of our friend, Senator BOXER, on after-school programs, is related to education, as I understand it. Under cloture, that would be precluded as well. Would that amendment be excluded? It has been published. It deals with after-school proposals for children. I am wondering if that would be permitted under the cloture motion.

Mr. LOTT. I want to reiterate again, first of all, Mr. President, under the proposal that I have suggested of a substitute amendment, any or all of these proposals could have been offered. We even thought about the possibility of having some agreed-to limited number of amendments that were educationally related. But Senator DASCHLE indicated, I believe, that he didn't think that was the way that he would like to proceed.

With regard to postcloture, assuming cloture is invoked, it depends on, I guess, how the amendment is offered. There certainly would be a debate on the contents of this package. That does include the school construction bond

issue for public schools. And it is conceivable that germane amendments could be offered to that to strike it. But, if you tried to strike it and add a new program under the rules, I presume that would not be possible under the cloture arrangement.

Again, with regard to other issues, including the Boxer amendment that the Senator described, in postcloture that probably would not be eligible. But I emphasize again. We could have worked, or could work, out an agreement where a limited number of amendments, or a substitute, could be considered.

With regard to the California issue, I want to emphasize that Senator FEINSTEIN was very interested in getting the language included—that could be helpful in any State, but particularly in States like Florida and California—and in providing additional new public school construction. She had quite an interest in a provision that was eventually added to the bill. I might add it was a close vote in the Finance Committee. I think I cast the deciding vote to provide for that.

So I think it is important that we find a way to get to the substance of this bill without it being indefinitely delayed so we can have a full debate about education but not have it get off into all kinds of other unrelated issues that would tend to dilute, I think, the debate on a discussion on education and the very important provisions that we have put together in this package in a bipartisan way.

Senator DASCHLE has come to the floor. We have been having a discussion about how to proceed. Senator MOYNIHAN on his behalf has indicated that he didn't think the minority would be prepared to agree to my offer to have a substitute amendment, or some limited number of education amendments. And we were responding to questions from Senator KENNEDY. I have filed a cloture motion and indicated that we would talk about whether or not we would have those cloture votes on Friday morning, or even Thursday afternoon, at the request of some Senators on both sides of the aisle. I want to talk to the minority leader about that. We were, quite frankly, hopeful that the Senator would be able to arrive and respond to the present situation.

I would be glad to respond to questions or comments from Senator DASCHLE.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished minority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. I thank the President.

Mr. President, I was in my office occupied on a satellite communication. I apologize for not being able to come to the floor until this moment. But I thank the distinguished ranking member of the Finance Committee for his efforts and for articulating the position of the Democratic caucus in this regard.

Mr. President, education is probably the most important issue we will ad-

dress this year, particularly with regard to the array of budgetary questions that we face and we are anxious to get to the bill to begin this debate. We don't expect that we are going to address every aspect of the education agenda with regard to this bill. But certainly when you have a tax vehicle and an education bill married, as this legislation represents, it affords us a real opportunity to talk about the array of challenges we face in this country, both from a tax as well as from an educational point of view.

What we are simply asking for is a fair and open debate, giving the minority the opportunity to talk and to offer amendments that are not only germane but relevant. Unfortunately, our rules here in the Senate constrain us with regard to what has been offered. There is a big difference between a germane amendment and a relevant amendment. Democrats have an array of amendments dealing with education that are relevant, but under the very narrow definition of germaneness they are not germane to this bill.

I have talked about this matter with the distinguished majority leader on a number of occasions. The offer that was given to us last night was the offer of a couple of amendments, or one substitute; we were to be satisfied with the ability to offer a couple of amendments. Mr. President, we have a larger number than a couple of amendments that we think ought to be warranted in this debate, that we think ought to be debated and that we think ought to be resolved in some way. So I, frankly, am not able to agree to a couple of amendments, or one substitute.

We ought to have a good discussion. If we can spend 5 days on the Reagan Airport, and 4 days on a cloning resolution, my heavens, we ought to be able to spend 4 or 5 days on an issue of great importance to tens, if not hundreds, of millions of Americans today.

So this is really our opportunity to do so. I am very disappointed that we would begin a debate with a cloture motion, begin the debate by saying, "Nope. We are going to stick to germaneness here," and try to eliminate the opportunity to offer good amendments relevant to education simply because we have to get on to other things. I want to finish the NATO debate as well. I want to be able to get all of this work done, and I pledge my cooperation with the leader, but I hope that the cooperation would go both ways. Cooperation certainly involves giving Senators an opportunity to have a good debate. In some cases we might even be willing to agree to a time limit on these amendments. We don't need all day to talk about some of them. But we certainly need the opportunity.

So I hope we can work this out. Until that time, certainly Democrats will not be in a position to support cloture. I look forward to talking more about that with the leader at the end of this colloquy.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, again, I would like to indicate that this is a bipartisan package. The Finance Committee reported it out by a substantial vote. We have already included three major Democrat proposals in this package. In fact, there are only four components to it. Three of them were principally sponsored by Democrats. In fact, I think probably the cause of the bill is probably well over two-thirds—80 percent—based on the Democratic amendments. But it didn't make any difference. They were Democrat, or Republican, if they made sense. If they will help with education in the elementary, secondary, or higher education level, they deserve serious consideration. And if they are meritorious, the committee added them. We considered other issues, I might add, in the Finance Committee. Point No. 1.

No. 2, with regard to not wanting to delay things, I should note that the discussion on this package began with a filibuster on the motion to proceed. I had to file a cloture on the motion to proceed—and not getting to the substance of even proceeding to consider the bill. It took us, I guess, 3 days to get that, although when we got to the vote, to the credit of both sides, it passed overwhelmingly. Seventy-five Senators said, Yes; we should cut off the filibuster on the motion to proceed.

With regard to the other issues, I did not want to spend 5 days on the Reagan Airport; 5 hours or 5 minutes would have been fine. But I thought that it was something we ought to think about. Some Senators had reservations, you know. It looked like we were having a filibuster on that. It shouldn't have taken 5 days. It should not have taken 4 days on cloning. I think that is an issue that has consequences serious enough that we ought to think about it carefully. It didn't have the votes. We pulled it back. We will see what the committee comes up with. But a doctor, BILL FRIST, the Senator from Tennessee, is working with others to come up with a package on this very important cloning issue. I thought that deserved some thought and some concerns, especially when you have a doctor saying we will start cloning human beings. I don't know whether I am all that excited about that prospect.

But, at any rate, I understand Senator DASCHLE's position. He has to be responsive to his Members, and I have to be responsive to mine. We have to work together to try to find a way to get to a conclusion on the education savings account bill, with the additions, and also to begin to continue to have debate on the NATO enlargement.

A lot of Senators want to talk about that. We understand maybe a Senator has a key amendment that he would be willing to offer this afternoon. I am not sure that that is true, but I think maybe Senator WARNER would be willing to go ahead and offer his amendment, which is one that is a critical amendment, on the NATO enlargement. So this time will not be wasted.

This is good time. And I invite Senators to come forward to talk about and think about in a public forum with the American people this very important question of enlarging NATO.

And by the way, with regard to double-tracking these issues, this is something that is done all the time. I used to watch Senator BYRD do it, Senator Mitchell do it, Senator Dole do it. So the idea is, while we are letting the procedures go forward, we can take up another very important subject.

So as a reminder to all Senators, under the provisions of rule XXII, all first-degree amendments must be filed at the desk by 1 p.m. on Thursday and all second-degree amendments must be filed 1 hour prior to the cloture vote.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### PROTOCOLS TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY OF 1949 ON ACCESSION OF POLAND, HUNGARY, AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC

##### MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the NATO treaty.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I object.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, let me, if I could, respond briefly to a couple of points made by the majority leader.

First of all, I have no reservations about his desire to double-track this legislation. Obviously, I think double-tracking makes sense. But he should not live under any misconception that somehow that is going to accelerate consideration of the education debate. We will have our day. We will have our opportunity to offer these amendments. Those amendments only have to be filed if cloture is invoked. And I hope my Democratic colleagues and many Republican colleagues understand the importance of having a good debate. Whether it is this week or next week or some other week, we are going to have that debate. We will have these amendments offered. We will have them considered. We are going to have it out. We will have a good discussion, as we should, in the Senate.

This is not the House of Representatives. We are not working under closed rules and all of the constraints under which the House has continued to perform its duties. That is the beauty of this body. And we are going to see that respect for the rules of the institution is upheld.

It is certainly the majority leader's right in that regard. I wasn't suggesting, in an earlier point I made about the number of days we spent on cloning, that we should not spend them. I of days we spent on cloning, that we should not spend them. I just felt that it might be a little more productive to spend them in committee, where this belonged, rather than to rush to the floor with a solution before

we had an opportunity to think through what the solution might be. So I thought it really was wasted time. I may be the only one in that regard. But eventually we will come back with something that makes sense. This didn't make sense. And I am hopeful that ultimately we will come to a solution.

But we did spend 4 days. That was the point. We spent 4 days on something thrown together to respond, in my view, very haphazardly to a very serious problem. If we can spend 4 days on that, it would seem to me we can spend a good while talking very constructively about one of the most important issues facing this country and our agenda in the Senate.

So I have no objection. I appreciate very much the opportunity to express myself.

Mr. WELLSTONE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the pending request?

Mr. WELLSTONE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, just two final observations with regard to Senator DASCHLE's comments. I feel very strongly about this Coverdell A+ bill. I think it is going to be helpful for children in America. My mother was a schoolteacher. I went to public schools all my life. I worked in placement and financial aid. I think it is high time we give parents and grandparents and people who care about kids in elementary and secondary education an opportunity to save for those kids and help them get an education. That is one of the reasons why I think education is not as good as it ought to be in elementary and secondary.

So I am determined we are going to get this bill up. We are going to consider it without a lot of extraneous matters. And I do want to observe that, as majority leader, I do still think the majority sets the agenda. I get to call up the bills, not somebody else. It has been developed over a period of many years that majority leaders call bills up, and I am not going to be dictated to by others who have a different agenda.

You can say you are going to do this and you are going to do that. If you want to have a fight over it, we will meet and fight on this one, because I am standing with children in elementary and secondary education in America. And I might also just say now I am willing to do what is right for our country. I have stood at this point and taken some tough stands when I thought it was important that it be bipartisan, nonpartisan, for our country. And I won't even repeat them, because I received a lot of flak. But right now I have Senators saying, don't go to NATO enlargement, delay it, delay it until after the Easter recess, delay it until June; do it never.

I do not think that is right. I am willing to cooperate and work on some