

elementary school children in Madison, OH. She is a graduate of Kent State University. She has taught grades 3 through 7 and tutored students after-school, served as a mentor for teachers just starting, and helped secure funds for several school projects; one in particular that allowed her students to make a large colored map of the United States on their playground.

Not only has she been very dedicated to her children at school, but she has also been a terrific mother to her children at home. The mother of three children—one of whom happens to be my legislative director, Paul Palagyi—Lorna once said the main reason she taught was to help her kids through college. But I also suspect the reason she taught was because she loved to teach and she loved the students.

She is certainly dedicated to her family and maintains that she simply could not have done it, could not have taught as long as she has, without the love and support of her husband, Jim. We should all be truly proud of Lorna for her commitment, her dedication to quality education. As my own high school principal, Mr. John Malone, said many years ago when I was in high school: There really are only two things that matter in education: One is a student who wants to learn; the other is a good teacher. Lorna is certainly more than just a good teacher.

Over the next decade we will need, it is estimated, at least 2.5 million new teachers. That is an unbelievable figure. That represents a real challenge but also an opportunity for this great Nation of ours to get more teachers like Lorna into our school systems, into the classrooms, teaching our young people. That is certainly how we will prepare our children for their great future.

Today, we thank Lorna and we also thank teachers throughout our country for the great work they do every day for our children. We say to Lorna, you are a shining example of exactly the kind of teachers we need educating our children. Enjoy your retirement. You certainly earned it.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, yesterday we spent a great deal of time doing nothing. We spent most all the day in a quorum call.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, this time is under the control of the Republican leader or his designee. Is the Senator seeking unanimous consent at this time?

Mr. REID. Madam President, we were in a quorum call. This is the time for

Republicans. There is no Republican here, so when they show up I will be happy to sit down. Until they get here, I will use their time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATE BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, we spent most all of yesterday doing nothing. Senator DASCHLE came on the floor late in the day and filed a petition for cloture because he recognized they were going to slow-walk this legislation on the supplemental appropriations bill, and then referred specifically to what one of the Republican Senators said yesterday, that they were going to slow down the train.

Today's publication of the Congressional Quarterly Monitor suggests they are doing what the majority leader said: Senate Republicans say they will not hesitate to slow-walk legislation important to Democrats, while aggressively pushing their own agenda.

The problem is, at this stage I don't know what "their" agenda is. We have tried to move forward on legislation that is important to their President; namely, this legislation dealing with the supplemental. The supplemental appropriations bill is very important, as we discussed on a number of occasions yesterday. This legislation is entitled: "Supplemental Appropriation Act for Further Recovery From and Response to Terrorist Acts in the United States." If that is not important, I don't know what is. They are slow-walking that. They are slowing down the train.

We read further in the article that a GOP leadership aide said the amendments to this hate crimes bill and this legislation now before us, that Senator Daschle has not seen fit to bring up, include defense authorization, a terrorism insurance proposal, and cloning.

Madam President, as we all know, there was an arrangement to bring up cloning. The majority leader agreed to do that. Of course, Republicans would not let us because they were slow-walking the legislation we had before the break.

I spoke to the Senator from Kansas yesterday about cloning. Senator BROWNBACK feels very strongly about it. He has indicated he would show us his proposal. That is something we want to do. We have offered a number of unanimous consent requests that we can move forward on, terrorism insurance. We, the majority, have tried every way possible to bring terrorism insurance before this body. The people who say they want it cannot take yes for an answer. The Republicans simply do not want this brought up. Some do not believe there is a need for it.

Anyplace in New York, go to people in Illinois, or people in Nevada, all over this country, business communities certainly believe there is a need for terrorism insurance. We want to do that.

I am very disappointed we are now in a predicament that we cannot move forward on the supplemental appropriations bill the President believes is important; we can't move forward on prescription drug benefits, which he says is important, although looking at the proposals we have had from the White House, they are a prescription drug benefit in name only. There doesn't seem to be much interest in that.

The things we need to do are very important to the people of this country. It is something as simple sounding as minimum wage. But for years we have not been able to increase the minimum wage for the people who need it. This is important, not to young people who are flipping hamburgers at McDonald's but to people raising families. Madam President, 60 percent of those drawing the minimum wage are women, and for 40 percent, that is the only money they get for themselves and their families. We need to do this.

Instead of going to these issues, we are having everything slow-walked. I do not understand the reason for that. It seems to me for the good of the country we should move forward.

This is a closely divided Senate. There is plenty of blame to go around if things do not go forward, if we do not make progress. But there is lots of credit to go around if we are able to accomplish things. I hope my friends will decide to move forward with legislation, allow us to legislate rather than hesitate, which we have been doing for the last several weeks.

The legislation before us is so important. We have talked about it on a number of occasions, how important it is for the troops we have in the field. It is important for creating homeland security—something as simple as \$200 million for security for nuclear facilities. The Presiding Officer and Senator LIEBERMAN and I have thought it important to do something to beef up security at our nuclear reactor sites. We need to do that because we have rules now at one site for a certain degree of security but at another site there is another degree of security. Even having been given 6 months' notice that there would be a surprise exercise to show how ready they were for an attack, even given 6 months for this so-called surprise, over 50 percent of the reactor sites failed in this security issue.

There will be a hearing before the Environment and Public Works Committee beginning in a half hour to deal with security of nuclear reactor sites.

There are things that need to be done to protect our homeland. I hope we can get to that. I hope the effort to slow-walk, slow down the train, stops immediately.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BOND. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. BOND pertaining to the introduction of S. 2579 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BOND. Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, as I understand, we have time now until 10:15; is that correct?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I yield myself such time as I may use.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND PELL GRANTS

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, over the period of these past weeks I have tried, with other of our colleagues, to bring attention to what is happening across the country in terms of the funding of education.

Many of us took pride in supporting the No Child Left Behind Act. Yet we are finding increasing information showing that more and more children across the Nation are being left behind. We are finding that daily in the reports.

In a little while this morning, I and others will be offering an amendment to try to address some of the special needs in the summer programs which are so important to children, in providing supplementary services to these children.

But I will focus on the overall issue we are facing of funding education, and, in particular, with regard to the availability of higher education for children from working families and from middle-income families and low-income families, and the availability and accessibility of the Pell grant program to help fund their education.

As we have all seen, there have been increasing reductions in support even in the areas of higher education.

First, I want to talk about the effect of the Bush budget on the overall investment in children and in teachers.

This chart shows the overall education program. The proposal was for a 3.5-percent increase last year. We got it up to 20 percent last year. That was really as a result of working together. That is what we all wanted to do, to work together with our colleagues and work with the administration. But working together is a two-way street. Part of it is reform but also investing

in education. That is what we were able to do last year. Yet, this year, we see the administration proposal is only a 2.8-percent increase, which is completely unsatisfactory. It does not even meet the cost of living.

Of course, there are increasing numbers of children who are eligible for particularly the title I programs. So we will be, as we move through the appropriations battle, trying to meet our responsibilities to these children.

I will bring to the attention of the Members of the Senate what happened just yesterday in New York City. Madam President, 100,000 teachers and students in New York City gathered to protest the drastic school budget cuts. There are \$358 million in cuts proposed by the mayor. One-hundred thousand students and teachers crammed eight blocks outside City Hall to protest the drastic school budget cuts proposed by the mayor.

Parents want their children educated. They want the Federal Government to work with the States and local communities to get the job done. If they see they are not getting it done in one area, there ought to be support for it in another area. They are tired of excuses.

We had the great national debate in terms of K through 12 just this last year. We made some commitments. We have some sense of expectation about what we are asking young people to do. We have some important accountability. But if we are going to ask the children to be accountable, we ought to be accountable. That is the key issue. If we are asking the young children who are going to school every single day to be accountable for the work they are to do, it is not too much to ask whether we are going to be accountable to make sure they are going to have the kind of support they need.

What is happening now is we are failing to do that. Although money does not answer all of the problems, it is a clear indication of a nation's priorities. When you see that we have a virtual abandonment of the commitment in terms of investing in children, and leaving millions of children behind because of budget considerations, it is not satisfactory.

We are, over the period of the remaining time in the Congress, going to be raising this issue. We are putting our friends and colleagues on notice that we are going to insist on accountability in the Senate.

Now, I want to mention an item in the supplemental which is very important, and that is the \$1 billion for the Pell shortfall. We are grateful to the appropriators for ensuring that that \$1 billion of shortfall was included in the supplemental. That is enormously important.

But as we are looking at the shortfall, we have to look at where we have been and what we are looking forward to. If you look at where we have been in terms of the funding of the Pell grants over the period of the recent

years, you can look back from 1993 to the year 2001, and the average increase was \$167.

During the Democratic administration, they raised the Pell grants from \$2,300 to \$3,750. That is an increase of \$1,450.

Last year, it was requested that it be raised by \$100. The Congress raised that to \$250. Look what the administration has requested for this year: zero; virtually zero in their budget in terms of the Pell grants. This is at a time when you have 640,000 more children living in poverty, and hundreds of thousands of those children are going to be eligible for the program, which means there is going to be a further withering away of the Pell grant program. That is fundamentally wrong.

If we are talking about trying to improve K through 12—and we intend to do so—then we are going to have to have better qualified children who will have an interest in going on to college. Some of those young people will not come from wealthy families. There ought to be a system that is available to them, where if they are of limited income they can get the Pell grants, they can get some loans, they can get a work study program, they can work during the course of the summer, and they can put together a package so they can go to a fine public or private university.

It was the intention of this Congress over a long period of time to say to the young people of this Nation that college was going to be available and affordable. It goes back to the 1860s and the Morrill Act, when we had the land-grant colleges. It was repeated at the time of the GI bill in the post-World War II period. It was repeated in the early 1960s, when we had grants and loans. At that time, the grants were about 75 percent, the loans 25 percent, and the system worked.

But we have seen since that time increasing numbers of young people from working families, who have the skills, the talent, and the intellect to be able to go on to college, are denied that opportunity because the Pell grant just does not provide the resources and support. That is enormously important.

We have seen where the administration has failed to fight for increased funding for K through 12. We are saying that the administration is failing to fight for those young people who want to go to our colleges. This, we believe, is absolutely wrong. We are going to go to battle and fight for that.

Let me just review, very quickly, the recent experience on Pell grants.

In fiscal year 1996, the House Republicans cut President Clinton's request for a \$2,600 maximum Pell grant by \$180, to \$2,420. Congress later enacted a \$2,470 maximum award. So even though it was cut during the negotiations, in the final negotiations, the macro-negotiations with the administration, they were able to get a very modest increase.

In 1997, the House Republicans again cut President Clinton's request for a