

somebody came and gave them more. We asked them to reduce yields by 30 points, and we did that to bring about an agreement with the students. And for the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) I will not be so informal. They worked for a year and a half to bring about this agreement between the students and the lending institutions.

The scoring has been a problem. There is no question about it. At one point, they were told that we have about \$4 billion to \$6 billion in savings. We were really swimming in good water. We had all sorts of money to spend. Next time they scored it, they used a different scoring method, and all of a sudden we are a billion dollars short.

I would also tell the previous gentleman we have come up with at least half of that, and I believe that the Committee on the Budget is able to come up with the other half.

So, again, it has been a very difficult thing, but we know that we must have it on the President's desk by May 15, unless my colleagues want to have total, a total disaster. We will have parents, we will have students, we will have schools sitting out there wondering are their loans? When will we find out?

So we just positively have to move the legislation, and I cannot give the two congressmen I mentioned enough credit for the amount of hours that they have spent and the staffs have spent to bring together the students and the lending institutions.

Above all, the students do not want to see their opportunity taken away from them simply because we in the Congress cannot come up with an agreement that will save the private sector as far as their ability to provide 70 percent of all Federal student loans. So I would hope that we can eliminate an awful lot of the amendments that are coming up because that could really drive us up the wall and then we will really have a scoring problem and, at the same time, get this legislation to the President quickly.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding this time to me, my friend from Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this rule and in support of this bill. However, I must say that I share the views of the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) the ranking member of the Committee on the Budget. I think his concerns are absolutely accurate; but, like him, I will vote for this bill and hope that we can work out some of the problems as it goes through.

I am pleased that the committee was able to work together in a bipartisan fashion to draft this bill. However, Mr. Speaker, I am extremely concerned that the authorization for the National

Board for Professional Teaching Standards was eliminated during markup of the bill.

□ 1915

I have talked to some of the staff of the committee on our side, and that was not our intent, and my understanding is we are not supportive of that, although it is a small component of a large bill.

As education is one of our Nation's highest priorities, Mr. Speaker, we need to focus on improving the quality of the teachers in our schools. National board certification is, in my opinion, an important way to achieve this goal. Both the President and a bipartisan group of our Nation's Governors support the good work that the national board is doing to improve the quality of our teachers.

Recently, Mr. Speaker, the Maryland Legislature passed a bill creating a pilot program to encourage up to 45 teachers to seek national board certification. In the city of Bowie, Maryland, just down the road, the City Council approved a \$20,000 set-aside in its 1997-1998 budget for initiatives to enhance the teaching skills and instructional environment in Bowie schools, including national board certification.

Mr. Speaker, as President Clinton said last Friday, and I quote, now is no time to walk away from our commitment to public education. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the President said, should not be a partisan issue, it should not be an ideological issue, it ought to be purely and simply what we can do to help you do what is best for our children and their future, close quote.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, I will support this bill, but I am very, very hopeful that the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is included in the Senate bill and will be included in the conference. I will be talking to my good friend, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY), the chairman-in-exile of this committee, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), chairman of this committee, in working toward that end.

I think this is a critical component of our overall effort to upgrade the status of teaching, and, therefore, the quality of education in our schools. I would hope that we could come to an agreement between the two bodies on this, and I look forward to working toward that end.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL).

(Mr. PAUL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I rise in support of this rule. It is obviously a very fair rule because I am allowed to offer an amendment later on, so I am pleased to be able to vote for this rule. I have an amendment that I am going to offer in Title I

which will be designated so that the Social Security number cannot be used for the electronic personal identifier for any of the programs in this educational bill.

The American people have become very worried about how often the Social Security number is being used as a national identification number, and we are working quickly toward a time where we have a national identification card. We certainly have abused the Social Security number as being the number. It was never intended that way. That is not what was intended when the Social Security was started that this number would be a universal number for everything.

In 1974, it was stated rather explicitly that the Social Security number should not be used for programs like this, and I would like to just quote the Privacy Act of 1974: "It shall be unlawful for any Federal, State or local government agency to deny any individual any right, benefit or privilege provided by law because of such individual's refusal to disclose his Social Security number."

I think this is a good idea, because today we are very much aware of the fact that if a company, if a loaning company, or if one is going into a store to buy something, and they get one's name and one's Social Security number, one knows that they can call up more information about somebody than they know about themselves. I think this is a serious threat to the privacy of every American citizen, and we should be cautious about using the Social Security number. It is being used all the time.

Mr. Speaker, prior to coming to this Congress, I was an obstetrician delivering babies, and babies cannot leave the hospital these days without a Social Security number. So they are born, get a Social Security number, they do not leave the hospital without it, and do my colleagues know that one cannot have a death certificate without a Social Security number? They are everywhere. It is an intrusion on our privacy. We do not need to use a Social Security number.

When I was in the Air Force, we used to have an identification number, but now, today, it is the Social Security number. Not too many years ago a law was passed here in the Congress that mandates that each State licensing agent for our automobile says that one has to have a Social Security number. So now they will be cross-checking with Social Security number and all of our driver's license numbers.

We are losing our privacy in this country. The American people know it. We do not need this number to be used in this program for it to be successful, and we should move very cautiously, and I hope I can get support for this amendment so that we do not use the Social Security number as the electronic personal identifier.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).