

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—  
H.R. 2808

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2808, regarding Middle East peace facilitation, that there be one amendment in order, which contains identical text of H.R. 2808, identical text of S. 1508, the so-called back to work provision, and expedited procedure language with respect to Senate consideration of the Balanced Budget Act by 2002, that the amendment be deemed agreed to, the bill be read the third time, and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, all without any intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LEAHY. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President. There would be no objection to the passage of the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act, which I think the majority of Senators on both sides of the aisle would like to see passed and I think would be critical in the interest of the countries in the Middle East for peace, but also in our own national security interests.

The back to work provision was passed, as the distinguished majority leader knows, with the support of the Democratic leader and all Members on this side of the aisle and on his side by unanimous consent last Saturday. And the other body had decided to take off and, I guess, go home on the Christmas vacation and not take it up. So we would have no objection to that.

The last part is the part I object to, Mr. President, because what we are saying is we will change the Senate rules on the time of debate and all on a bill, which nobody—neither the distinguished majority leader nor myself—knows what is in it. We all know we have the same goal, and both he and I agree to have a balanced budget by 2002. But we do not know what is in it. I do not think I would be able to get consent of many Members to waive, basically, the Senate rules on a piece of legislation that we have not yet seen. But I certainly hope that some type of procedure can be put together, and I assume that at the time when the budget comes up, it will be under some form of expedited procedure.

So I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, let me indicate that, of course, under one scenario, if an agreement is reached, it will be reached with the President of the United States and with the Democratic leaders of the House and the Senate. So it is not something that has not been discussed. I know they are doing—as we are doing—checking with every committee chairman on every issue that might affect anyone's jurisdiction. The Democrats are doing it and the Republicans are doing it. We want to make certain that as many people as possible can be consulted as we proceed to try to reach some agree-

ment on a balanced budget over the next 7 years scored by the Congressional Budget Office which the American people by a large margin want.

For the last couple of weeks, there has been this problem of Federal workers and whether or not they could go to work. Some tried to go, and they were turned away. There is a lot of gnashing of teeth by Federal workers through no fault of their own because the appropriations bill were vetoed—for example, whether it was the HUD-VA, or Interior, or the State, Justice, Commerce veto by the President. Those people are not working.

The President signed the Agriculture bill. So the people in the Department of Agriculture are working.

Labor-HHS is being held up on a party-line vote. We cannot bring it up on the floor. There are a lot of employees there who are not working.

We did by unanimous consent cover the District of Columbia until January 3.

That leaves one bill, foreign operations, which is hung up over one amendment, and we believe that could and should be resolved at an early date.

But the point is now we are in the position where at least by deeming the Federal workers to be essential employees and by in effect guaranteeing pay, that they will get it right away, but once the budget agreement has been agreed to, it would happen. All that is holding us up now and everybody going back to work tomorrow, or Sunday, or Monday, or Tuesday after the holidays is whether or not my colleagues on the other side will help us expedite the passage of a balanced budget agreement.

Now, it seems to me that we ought to be able to work that out. I am prepared to do that. I think the Senator from South Dakota, the Democrat leader, indicated after we left the White House that he was certainly willing to discuss it further.

We will be in session tomorrow. The House is on call. They can be in session tomorrow. And it is my hope that we can figure out some way to pass this package, unless there is a modification that we have not thought of. We could put a time agreement on how long it would be in effect. So it would only be a temporary modification of the present rules maybe until February 15, whatever. But I hope that we will sit down and work it out.

I think the White House has an interest in trying to resolve this issue. And they have copies. I have given a copy of this to the President. I discussed it with the President myself before I left the White House. Mr. Panetta has a copy. Hopefully there will be enough ideas and thoughts on it overnight so that early in the morning we can reach some agreement, get it passed, and let people go back to work—the people who are caught in the middle, so to speak—and let them go back to work knowing that they will be paid.

So I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill I proposed be printed in

the RECORD so my colleagues may have an opportunity to study it tomorrow.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THE BALANCED BUDGET BILL.**

(a) INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT.—

(1) INTRODUCTION.—The balanced budget bill, described in (a)(3), shall be introduced in the House of Representatives by the Chairman of the Budget Committee of that House and, in the Senate, by the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Minority Leader. In the Senate, the balanced budget bill shall not be referred to committee but shall be placed directly on the Calendar.

(2) CONSIDERATION.—In the Senate, the balanced budget bill shall be considered as if it were a reconciliation bill pursuant to section 310 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, with the following exceptions:

(A) Debate in the Senate on the balanced budget bill, and all amendments, thereto and debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours.

(B) Upon expiration of the 10 hours of debate, without intervening action, the Senate shall proceed to vote on the final disposition of the balanced budget bill.

(3) BALANCED BUDGET BILL.—As used in this section, the term “balanced budget bill” means the bill that achieves a balanced budget not later than fiscal year 2002 that is introduced pursuant to subsection (a).

(b) REVISED AGGREGATES AND ALLOCATIONS.—

(1) REVISION.—The chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate shall each submit to its House—

(A) revised levels of total new budget authority, budget outlays, and Federal revenues set forth in House Concurrent Resolutions 67 (One Hundred Fourth Congress) as required by section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(B) revised allocations of new budget authority and total outlays and in the House entitlement authority set forth in the joint explanatory statement accompanying the conference report on that concurrent resolution as required by section 602 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974,

consistent with the balanced budget bill introduced pursuant to subsection (a).

(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—The adjustments required under (1) shall be made upon the introduction of the balanced budget bill pursuant to subsection (a).

(3) EFFECT OF REVISED ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES.—In the House of Representatives and the Senate, revised levels and allocations submitted under paragraph (1) shall be deemed as the levels and allocations for purposes of sections 302 and 602, and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(4) Upon the enactment of a bill referred to in subsection (b), the chairmen of the Committees on the Budget may make necessary technical revisions to the revised allocations made under subsection (b).

**MAKING MINORITY PARTY APPOINTMENTS FOR THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on behalf of the Democrat leader, I send to the desk a resolution making minority committee appointments, and I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A resolution (S. Res. 206) making minority party appointments for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

So the resolution (S. Res. 206) was agreed to; as follows:

S. RES. 206

*Resolved*, That the following shall constitute the minority party's membership on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for the second session of the 104th Congress, or until their successors are appointed: Mr. Rockefeller, Mr. Graham, Mr. Akaka, Mr. Wellstone, and Mrs. Murray.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. DOLE. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

#### FEDERAL WORKERS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, if the majority leader could withhold just another moment, I want it clearly understood from this side that we are in agreement to pass the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act. I believe it should be passed. I do not think it is right to be holding that up. We are also willing to pass the back-to-work provision. After all, we agreed to it and worked on drafting it last week.

I would express the same concern I expressed earlier today, that it is very difficult for Federal workers, who do want to go back to work, who are unable to pay their bills as time goes on, who are greatly needed just to have this country run the way it is supposed to, not going back to work, and yet they have seen, frankly, in the other body those who did not want to take this up have the taxpayers pay for their airfare to go back home for Christmas vacation and to pay their salaries of about \$500 a day every day they are home for Christmas vacation, and have them say, "We can't go forth." I think that is wrong.

Mr. DOLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### ORDERS FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1995

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it stand in recess until 10 a.m., Saturday, December 30, that following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there then be a period for morning business for not to extend beyond 10:30

a.m., with statements limited to 5 minutes each.

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

#### PROGRAM

Mr. DOLE. The Senate will be in tomorrow. It says here "briefly." I am not certain of that. We may be in recess for a considerable time, but the Senate will be in tomorrow. Unless there is something developing fairly early tomorrow, we will try to come back and recess the Senate. We will not be in session—let us see. We will make that determination tomorrow. Tuesday, that may happen because right now there is the urgency to get the Federal employees back to work. So it could even be Monday that we would be in session. So I am not going to refer to some of these things.

But in the event we are not in session until Wednesday, we will be in at 11:55 a.m., Wednesday, and we will adjourn the first session of the 104th Congress; and then the second session of the 104th Congress will begin at noon on Wednesday. I do not anticipate any rollcall votes. I have told my colleagues on both sides of the aisle we at least will give them 24 hours notice. It is hoped if we reach some agreement on Federal employees we could do it by unanimous consent. If there is a rollcall vote, we will try to give ample notice because I know some people have to come from some distance.

Is there anything else?

Mr. LEAHY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

#### BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, first, I want to repeat what I said earlier today. I commend the distinguished majority leader and the distinguished Democratic leader for their efforts. And I commend the President of the United States. I have talked with the distinguished majority leader about this, and without going into that discussion, I have discussed it also with the distinguished Democratic leader, and I have discussed the budget discussions with the President. I am absolutely convinced that all three want to find our way out of this. I am also convinced that the Republican leader, the Democratic leader, and the President want to have a balanced budget by the year 2002.

Obviously, as I said earlier today, there will not be a budget that has everything President Clinton wants in it and there will not be a budget that has everything the distinguished majority leader wants in it or the distinguished Democratic leader wants in it or everything I might want in it. But we can reach agreement.

I am concerned that some in the other body seem to think of this as some kind of a holy crusade where they must have every single item they can

think of, irrespective of the damage it does to the majority of House and Senate Members of both parties. That is not what was considered by the Founders of this country. It is not the reason we have different parties. It is not the reason why we have two bodies of the Congress and a President.

It is difficult for other countries around the world to look at this, the most powerful Nation on Earth, the largest economy on Earth, a democracy which is held up as a shining example around the world, to see us paralyzed in this way. It is not the way it was intended to be. It is not the way it should be.

So I suggest that perhaps it is time to stop the gimmicks of holding up tin foil keys or saying we will be here and work this out, and then immediately afterward hopping on an airplane at taxpayers' expense to go home for Christmas vacation, and to do what the distinguished majority leader and the distinguished Democratic leader and the President are doing, sit down and try to work this out.

But I hope, Mr. President, and I believe I am joined by most Members of this body in this hope, that we let those Americans who are out of work in the Federal Government, who have a vital role to play in making the greatest, most powerful Nation on Earth operate, let them go back to work.

Every one of us joined in sorrow when so many of those Federal workers in the home State of the distinguished Presiding Officer died. We did not ask whether they were Republicans or Democrats, liberals or conservatives, we just knew that brave Americans who support our country and help our country operate died in the terrible terrorist blast.

But we have a lot of other Americans too who come with pride to work for their country. And that pride has to be shaken. And their whole question of being has to be shaken. I hope we can put them back to work. And I hope that we can show the rest of the country and the rest of the world how a great nation operates in a democracy.

Certainly that does not mean that I will agree with everything that the distinguished majority leader might propose in this budget, nor he with me, nor perhaps either one of us with all the things that the President might propose. But I have been here for 21 years, the distinguished majority leader has been here for 27 years, and had served with distinction in the other body prior to that. He and I have been on many committees of conference. We have been in many leadership meetings where we have debated proposals. We know that nobody ever walks out a winner on every single point that they came in wanting.

But I think it is safe to say he and I many times have been in meetings, sometimes contentious, sometimes not, but ultimately everybody wanted to do what was best for the country. So I wish him well. I wish Senator DASCHLE