

I appreciate the cooperation of Senators DOLE and STEVENS in the expeditious consideration of this bill.●

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

So the bill (S. 1514) was considered to have been read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1514

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SEC. . That notwithstanding the Executive order of the President, or any other provision of law, funds appropriated by Public Law 104-61 for purposes set forth in section 601 of H.R. 1530, the Conference Report accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996, House Report No. 104-406, 104th Congress, 1st Session, as passed by the House of Representatives on December 15, 1995 and by the Senate on December 19, 1995, may be obligated and expended for such purposes in accordance with such section: *Provided*, That authorities provided under this section shall expire on April 2, 1996.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING RECESS

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 1995, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 30, 1995, during the recess of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1508. An act to assure that all Federal employees work and are paid.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. DOLE (for Mr. STEVENS (for himself, Mr. DOLE, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. COATS, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. BYRD, and Mr. NUNN)):

S. 1514. A bill to authorize the obligation and expenditure of appropriated funds for a 2.4 percent increase in pay and allowances and a 5.2 percent increase for basic allowance for quarters for the members of the uniformed services; considered and passed.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader.

BRINGING FEDERAL WORKERS BACK TO WORK

Mr. DASCHLE. The majority leader and I have been discussing the effort to bring people back to work. Unfortunately, we are not at a point where a resolution will be offered this evening. I must say I am very frustrated by the current set of circumstances. I know it is hard for the American people to understand what is going on. Frankly, it

is hard for me to understand. All rationality seems to have been lost in this process, but let me try to explain the situation as I see it.

All year, the Speaker and his lieutenants have warned that they would shut the Government down as part of their revolution. They did not care what the price was; they wanted to force their radical agenda on the President and on the American people. And each day there has been a new demand, each day a new hostage—Federal employees, people who depend on Government services, now even the Middle East peace process.

The majority leader has worked in good faith in an effort to try to resolve this matter. And he has said he does not believe in shutting the Government down. I believe him, and I share that view very strongly. The Government remains shut because some Members in the House want it shut. It is government by gimmick, and it is wrong.

The majority leader offered a bill to declare all Federal employees essential, and that bill was pending in the House for a long period of time. They could have passed it at any moment and sent it directly to the President. It was pending for 8 days. Instead, the House has chosen to play political games with it.

Furthermore, while I support the Dole-Warner bill, I must say it falls short of what I think we need to do, frankly. It is an important step, but it is not a solution to the problems caused by the Republican Government shutdown.

Congress has to pass legislation to fund the Government. Not once, not twice, but on nine separate occasions now we have offered a continuing resolution to do that, but each time it was met with Republican objections. Under the measure that is now being contemplated, a measure which would make all Federal employees essential, Government workers still could not obligate new funds, make new purchases or do any traveling; they could not spend any money; they could not pay contractors; they could not make grants; they could not buy supplies; they could not be paid.

Let me emphasize, under the Dole-Warner legislation, Federal workers would be at work but they would not be paid until some later date, and then they would be paid retroactively. So we will be asking them to go to work, which is better than asking them to stay home, but we will be asking them to go to work and not be paid.

Mr. President, keeping the Government closed is an unacceptable situation. We should not allow that to occur. Small businesses would not be able to get SBA loans, and 2,500 FHA home mortgage closures would be blocked; health researchers awarded NIH grants would still not be funded. If a forest ranger's truck ran out of gas in a national park, there would be no money to fill it up. State and local entities would not be funded for programs

like Meals on Wheels; students would not get their college loans.

I believe that the House wants confrontation, not solution. Time and again we have offered solutions. Time and again, working with the majority leader, who I believe wants solutions, we have not been able to get that job done.

So we will keep working toward a solution. And as I say, I commend the majority leader for his efforts in trying to accomplish what we know we must do. We are not there yet. I have very, very grave reservations about the fact that we still on this day have not been able to send a clear message to Federal employees or to the U.S. taxpayers that this issue can be resolved. Let us hope that prior to Tuesday it will be resolved.

I yield the floor.

GETTING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES BACK TO WORK

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I will just take a minute or two. I do share the view expressed by the Democratic leader that it is not fair to the Federal employees. And I must say that a lot of people call me and say it is not fair to the taxpayers; if you are paying people for not working, that is not a very good idea either. I do not suggest the Federal employees want it that way, but that is precisely what has happened.

It is my hope we can come to some resolution here very quickly. That is why we will come in again tomorrow at noon, in the hopes that tonight we can work out something so that people can go back to work on Tuesday, and that if they cannot be, as the Democratic leader indicated, paid immediately, at least they can be assured they will be paid.

I think we have made progress in our budget negotiations with the President, with the Democratic leadership, Senator DASCHLE, Congressman GEPHARDT, myself, Speaker GINGRICH, and Majority Leader ARMEY on the House side. We will go back tonight, we are going to be there tomorrow morning, and maybe even later tomorrow, but at least tomorrow morning. I hope during that time tonight and tomorrow morning the Democratic leader, Senator DASCHLE, and I can devise some way to come back up here tomorrow, pass a resolution, send it to the House, and that the House will accept it.

It seems to me that on Tuesday Federal employees should be back to work, parks should be open, and we ought to be about our business. I hope we can get that resolved.

I just say, so that the record is complete, a number of bills were passed that were vetoed by the President: VA-HUD, a lot of Federal employees involved; State, Justice, Commerce, vetoed by the President, a lot of Federal employees involved; the Interior bill, vetoed by the President, a lot of Federal employees involved; Labor-HHS, we cannot get it up because of a party

split on the Senate floor, a lot of Federal employees involved. We do have a CR for the District of Columbia until the 3d of January. That leaves one bill that is still hung up because of one difference. We ought to be able to resolve that one difference. The foreign operations appropriations bill is very important, and I hope we can resolve it perhaps as early as Wednesday or Thursday of this next week. We are prepared to proceed. We had hoped we might have passed the bill with the Mideast Peace Facilitation Act, deeming all employees essential, and the expedited procedure. That is not going to happen. We need to find another way to address the problem.

As the Democratic leader indicated, the primary aim is to get people back to work as quickly as possible, either with pay or certainly with the assurance that they will be paid, so that they can make plans that are necessary. I know I speak for my colleague, Senator WARNER of Virginia,

who has been in contact with me daily, and I know other Members of the House who were in contact with me today, Congresswoman MORELLA of Maryland, Congressman WOLF, and Congressman DAVIS of Virginia. We will be working with them and others who have an interest in this. I thank my colleague.

ORDERS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1995

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that once we complete our business today, the Senate stand in recess until the hour of 12 noon on Sunday, December 31, 1995, that following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be deemed 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 with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. DOLE. I think we have indicated to other Senators we will continue negotiations, we will attempt to clear the House message, maybe with a modification, the back-to-work bill, and if we cannot find some solution, it may be that we will just pass the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act. We will not be in session, I do not think, very long tomorrow. I hope we are not in session on New Year's Day.

RECESS UNTIL TOMORROW

Mr. DOLE. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:26 p.m., recessed until Sunday, December 31, 1995, at 12 noon.