

on Earth where she has represented not only this body but this Nation as well. She visited the former Soviet Union in 1975 with Senators Hubert Humphrey and Hugh Scott, the first time a congressional delegation had ever visited the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Supreme Soviet.

She visited China in 1979 with Senators Frank Church and Jacob Javits. She visited the gulf states just before the gulf war, and she returned just after the war while oilfields were still burning. And in June 1994, Jan coordinated the largest ever overseas delegation when 22 Senators traveled to Normandy to commemorate the 50th anniversary of D-day.

One trip I will always remember is the trip to Bosnia last April when Jan arranged for me and Senators HATCH and REID to attend functions and to visit the land that we had not yet visited following the war. We went to assess progress in implementing the Dayton peace accords. What promised from the start to be a difficult trip became immeasurably more difficult the morning we were to leave when the plane carrying Secretary Ron Brown and 34 others slammed into the ground in Dubrovnik.

Jan's professionalism helped us get through that trip. And in caring on, we were able to show the world that America's commitment to peace in the former Yugoslavia is unwavering.

Closer to home, she has helped welcome every head of State who has visited the Senate over the last 19 years.

In her 27 years in the Senate, Jan Paulk has worked for Democrats and she has worked for Republicans. She has served both with equal professionalism and skill. Most of all, she has served her Nation, and, for that, we are all grateful. Linda and I and all of our colleagues, I know, wish Jan the very best in her new challenge.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### TRIBUTE TO SENATOR PAUL SIMON

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I know others will be commenting on this later on, but I was delighted to be one of those who wore a bow tie this afternoon in honor of our great friend and great Senator from the State of Illinois. The bow tie has sort of become his symbol, but he also is just one of the finest Senators, one of the finest men that we have serving in the U.S. Senate.

I have enjoyed working with him over many years. I have served with him here in the Senate. I have been on committees with him. I have found him to be a Senator who will stand for principle, and sometimes that means standing with Members of the Senate on the other side of the aisle. He truly will be missed as he goes back to his beloved State of Illinois. I am sure he will do many, many productive things in the future as he has in the past, as Lieutenant Governor of his State.

He is a very thoughtful Senator. This was just a little bit of levity today, as we all wore our bow ties in honor of PAUL SIMON. But it was a great symbol of affection that we have for a Senator we have enjoyed so much, and who we will miss as he goes back to Illinois.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

#### MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 63

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send a joint resolution to the desk, which is a continuing resolution containing appropriations for Defense, Foreign Operations, Treasury-Postal, Labor-HHS, Interior and Commerce, State, Justice.

I ask its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 63) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

Mr. LOTT. I now ask for the second reading of the joint resolution and, on behalf of my Democratic colleagues, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I believe the resolution will be set aside and read a second time on the next legislative day, is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment for 1 minute and, upon reconvening, the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day.

There being no objection, at 6:36 p.m., the Senate adjourned until 6:37 p.m. the same day.

The Senate met at 6:37 p.m., and was called to order by the Honorable MIKE DEWINE, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—SENATE BILL 2100

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2100) to provide extension of certain authority for the Marshal of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court Police.

Mr. LOTT. I object to further consideration of the bill at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be placed on the Calendar of General Orders.

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 63

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the joint resolution for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 63) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

Mr. LOTT. I object to further consideration of the joint resolution at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution will be placed on the Calendar of General Orders.

#### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—CONFERENCE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY VA-HUD APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that once the Senate receives from the House the conference report to accompany the VA-HUD appropriations bill that the conference report be considered and agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements in connection with the conference report be printed in the RECORD.

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

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to present to the Senate the conference agreement on the VA, HUD, and independent agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year 1997. I'm especially pleased that this final step in congressional consideration of this measure is occurring prior to start of the fiscal year. Furthermore, we anticipate this measure will be separately signed into law and not become part of another continuing resolution, which has become quite a distinction for a major appropriations bill in this Congress.

I would note that it is especially critical that we enact this bill immediately to avoid potential delays in processing of veterans disability compensation and pension checks. In addition, prompt enactment is necessary to prevent potential disruption in other critical governmental functions such as the sale and processing of Federal flood insurance policies and financing of VA and FHA mortgages.

Mr. President, much of the recent attention paid to this bill has been over disposition of the three major health issues riders added during Senate floor debate: the Domenici-Wellstone mental health parity provision; the Bradley-Frist maternity health care amendment; and the spina bifida VA entitlement. While our appropriations conferees can't take credit for it, we are

nonetheless pleased that at our urging the House and Senate legislative committees of jurisdiction, on a bipartisan basis, worked out agreements on these very substantial policy issues which are incorporated in our conference agreement. Moreover, at our urging, each of these legislative proposals now have delayed effective dates which permit a final legislative review in the next session of Congress, prior to implementation.

Mr. President, beyond serving as a vehicle for these major health policy provisions, the underlying measure is itself the largest non-defense discretionary appropriations bill, with nearly a third of the Government-wide total. Its critical role in establishing program levels and direction for the environment, housing and community development, veterans health programs, and science and technology is the reason why Congress and the White House took so long to reconcile our differences during this past year.

These are major funding issues which reflect profound policy disagreements. None of us, however, want to repeat the long delays and frustrations we experienced during the past year of being unable to enact this critical funding measure. We have attempted to avoid reopening past disagreements and controversies which blocked this bill last year.

Our effort to facilitate this measure has meant that this bill, in a number of respects, reflects funding levels and policies which are compromises between very different viewpoints. One example is the inclusion of funds at the 1996 enacted level for the Corporation for National and Community Service. I, and many others, continue to have strong reservations about this program, but there is no doubt that failure to fund it would result in a Presidential veto. So despite our misgivings, this conference agreement maintains the current level of funding for this program, which continues to be more than I believe warranted, but less than what is requested by the White House. The House agreed with this position of the Senate, despite their previous opposition to providing any funding for continuing this program.

With respect to other agencies funded in this bill, the conference agreement attempts to balance a wide variety of competing interests within a very constrained budget allocation.

The conference agreement provides \$17.013 billion for veterans medical care—an increase of \$5 million above the President's request and \$450 million above the 1996 level. This account received the highest priority in the legislation, and hence the largest increase. The amount provided will ensure that VA will continue to provide care to the 2.8 million veterans currently receiving VA medical services.

The conference agreement also includes \$100 million in 1996 supplemental appropriations for veterans compensations and pensions. If the Senate passes

this critical legislation no later than today, September 25, these additional funds will ensure that veterans will receive their September checks on time. Delays may result in veterans checks being late.

For EPA, a total of \$6.7 billion is included—\$184 million more than the fiscal year 1996 amount. This includes approximately \$2.9 billion in funds for the States—of which \$1.9 billion is for State revolving funds for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure—fully funded at the President's request level. It also provides the President's full request of \$1.394 billion for Superfund, to ensure site cleanups are not slowed despite the need to reform the program.

Despite the very compelling arguments made by some members, the conference agreement does not include so-called riders in EPA in view of our desire to keep this legislation as free of controversy as possible.

For FEMA disaster relief, the conference agreement provides \$1.32 billion—all of which would become available immediately—to meet the needs arising from hurricanes Fran and Hortense, and other disasters currently on the books. These funds, in addition to the \$3.7 billion in previously appropriated disaster relief funds currently available for obligation, obviate the need for a supplemental appropriation for disaster relief at this time.

The conference agreement includes a 1-year extension for FEMA's flood insurance program—so that there is no lapse in FEMA's ability to write flood insurance policies and carry out the flood mapping program. After the recent hurricane disasters, many homeowners are only too familiar with how critical this program is.

For the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the conference recommendation continues the policies and programmatic reforms enacted last year. It was a major disappointment that Congress was unable to enact a comprehensive public and assisted housing reform authorization bill. This appropriations bill, however, contains temporary extensions of provisions needed to halt the ever-increasing cost of housing subsidy commitments and to continue progress in reforming wasteful and ineffective housing and community development programs. Equally important, this bill restructures funding of Department of Housing and Urban Development to eliminate bureaucratic overlap and promote local flexibility and decision making. I hope that the authorizing process will pick up where they left off this year and expeditiously enact these reforms as permanent legislative changes.

Similarly, this appropriations bill contains multifamily housing restructuring proposals which were under consideration by the authorizing committee. We cannot afford to continue the excessive subsidies currently being paid to sustain this inventory of nearly a million apartments for low-income

families. Unless Congress acts to reduce the excessive debt of this housing inventory, along with implementing other management improvements, there could be massive defaults and widespread resident displacement.

The complexity and difficulty of developing a consensus on these issues are substantial. Project owners, including limited and general partners, project managers, residents, State housing finance agencies, local community development organizations, bond holders, and municipal governments are among those with significant interests in how we address this issue. These interests, however, frequently are divergent and competing. Of course, we must also be mindful of the billions of taxpayers dollars previously invested in this multifamily housing inventory, and the billions more which are at risk over the next several years depending on which policies and financing mechanisms we select to deal with these issues.

The conference agreement reflects our attempt at finding a reasonable balance between these sometimes conflicting concerns. We cannot afford continuing to pay excessive subsidies for these multifamily housing projects, even those which provide very good housing for low income families. And some portions of this inventory are little more than the slums they were intended to replace. The conference recommendation is not a comprehensive solution. It simply is an attempt to deal with these issues in that fraction of the multifamily inventory that have section 8 contracts which expire during fiscal year 1997. We are acting solely because affirmative action is required to prevent defaults and potential resident displacement during the fiscal year.

I want to thank the Senator from Oregon, chairman of our full Appropriations Committee, for his support and assistance during our consideration of this bill. Changes in our budget allocation, made on his recommendation, enabled us to provide funding to reduce the potential for displacement of low-income families from currently subsidized housing. With this allocation we were also able to restore funding for the Community Development Block Grants program [CDBG] at the full current fiscal year 1996 funding level of \$4.6 billion, and not withhold \$300 million from obligation as was proposed in the House-passed bill.

Mr. President, it is very unfortunate that the Senator from Oregon is retiring from the Senate since the funding requirements necessary to maintain subsidized housing are expected to grow even larger over the next several years, and his appreciation of the importance of this investment will be sorely missed. I would note, however, that with his help we have been able to begin weaning this inventory of housing from its continued dependence on heavy Federal subsidies.

The conference agreement for NASA totals \$13.7 billion, an increase of \$100

million over the House—and adopts the Senate-passed restoration of funds for the Mission to Planet Earth program to study global climate change. The conference agreement also incorporates buyout legislation necessary to facilitate reductions in staffing without resorting to very disruptive reductions-in-force [RIF's]. Also included is transfer authority, similar to that enacted last year, which provides NASA the flexibility to redirect funding within the \$2.1 billion total provided for the space station in order to avoid costly delays or schedule slips.

Mr. President, after making adjustments for the necessary replenishment of the FEMA disaster relief account and for enactment of housing legislative savings, the net increase in actual appropriated program levels is only \$84 million, or just one-tenth of one percent over the previous year. While an aggregate freeze, the total reflects some substantial increases offset by commensurate decreases for several of our agencies. The biggest increase, \$569 million, was provided for discretionary programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The only other agencies to receive significant increases were the Environmental Protection Agency, with an \$184 million increase, and the National Science Foundation which received \$50 million more than last year. These increases were offset by cuts of \$625 million in HUD, and \$200 million in NASA.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation to the Senator from Maryland for her assistance and cooperation in putting together this bill. We confronted major challenges, not only due to the complexity of some of the programmatic and budgetary issues within our jurisdiction, but also in dealing with some very sensitive policy concerns of a legislative nature. And, as has become an annual concern, we have had to deal with daunting budgetary constraints. She has been invaluable in guiding this difficult bill through some contentious points in the Senate and in conference. Amid the wide ranging issues and concerns we have dealt with in consideration of this bill, she has been steadfast in her determination to get our task accomplished. I am very grateful for all her help.

Mr. President, I would also like to thank the many staff members who also have made a major contribution to consideration of this bill: Sally Chadbourne, Catherine Corson, David Bowers, and Liz Blevins on the minority side; and Stephen Kohashi, Carrie Apostolou, Julie Dammann, Jon Kamarck, and Lashawnda Leftwich on our side.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I am happy to join my distinguished colleague, the Senator from Missouri, to offer for Senate consideration the fiscal year 1997 conference report for the VA-HUD and independent agencies appropriations bill. With \$84.7 billion in spending—\$20.3 billion in mandatory spending and \$64.3 in discretionary

budget authority, this is one of the largest and most diverse appropriations measures we must consider.

I am particularly pleased by our ability to achieve compromise on many complicated issues as we worked out this agreement with our colleagues in the House. This bill funds a tremendous diversity of agencies and programs. It is a challenge every year to develop a passable, signable bill that addresses a variety of concerns from all Members of Congress and the American people. By accepting our differences on many of the issues that plagued the VA-HUD and independent agencies appropriations bill last year, and prohibiting environmental riders, we have avoided being included in an omnibus continuing resolution, and Mr. President, to the credit of all involved, we have a signable bill.

Mr. President, I would like to second the urging of Chairman BOND that we move forward with this bill immediately. We need to avoid potential delays in processing of veterans disability compensation and pension checks as well as Federal flood insurance policies. Both matters are addressed in supplemental legislation included in the fiscal year 1997 VA-HUD appropriations bill.

Mr. President, as you know, this bill contains funding for a diverse group of Federal agencies and programs. Yet it also contains three important health care provisions first proposed by the Senate and agreed to by the conference.

I am a proud cosponsor of a measure introduced by Senator DASCHLE to extend benefits to children of Vietnam veterans exposed to agent orange who have spina bifida. This will provide needed support for our veterans' children and their families. I would note to Senator's DASCHLE's credit, that this provision passed overwhelmingly in the Senate, as did the motion to accept it in the House.

Second, our bill includes Senator BRADLEY's newborns health provision, which prevents "drive-through" baby deliveries. Because of this bill, developed with Senator FRIST, insurance companies will no longer be able to force mothers out of the hospital in less than 48 hours after delivery. This is an important measure impacting every American family.

Third, Senators WELLSTONE and DOMENICI's mental health provision prevents discrimination against people with mental illness. When this bill passes, insurance companies that provide coverage for mental health will have to offer the same lifetime cap as they do for other illnesses. We have heard here on the Senate floor stories from Senators about families devastated by insurance discrimination.

Mr. President, the three provisions provide real answers to real problems faced by the American public. They are important components of the health care initiatives that this administration has worked so hard to carry out.

As you can see, this bill is about more than just agencies and programs and budget authority: it is about real people. The bill provides \$39.2 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs, including \$17.3 billion for veterans health care, and \$20.4 billion for veterans benefits. It ensures that promises made are promises kept to our Nation's veterans.

The bill provides HUD with \$19.5 billion, including full funding, at \$4.6 billion, for community development block grants. This money is used to provide real economic opportunities for people trying to help themselves—in places like Baltimore, Houston, and Charleston, SC. It funds the President's request for housing for people with AID's, providing desperately needed housing for people living with AID's.

The bill continues a significant FHA multifamily housing mark-to-market demonstration program. While taking on such an ambitious authorization effort for reforming the assisted housing program may be beyond the call of duty for the Appropriations Committee, this provision is the necessary first step toward reducing the excessive debt of the assisted housing inventory while avoiding putting families out on the street. This bill creates opportunities for the poor—but not hollow opportunities. Instead it reaffirms proper oversight of our Nation's housing programs, while avoiding new and expanded liabilities for the taxpayer.

In addition, the bill continues to streamline the management of the Environmental Protection Agency and encourages EPA to prioritize, focusing its resources on those problems that pose the highest risk to human health and the environment. The EPA is provided \$6.7 billion, which is \$185 million more than last year. The money will be used to ensure that people across this Nation breathe clean air and drink clean water. Unfortunately, due to limited resources, the bill does not provide the President's full request for environmental programs. In particular, I am concerned about reductions in programs like Boston Harbor, Montreal Protocol, Climate Change, and the Environmental Technologies Initiative. But we did the best we could with the resources we had available.

The bill restores the fiscal year 1996 \$1 billion rescission from the FEMA disaster relief fund and makes the funds available immediately. This will help families and communities devastated by hurricanes, floods, and other disasters. This is real help for real people, from North Carolina to Maryland to California.

I am particularly pleased that this bill maintains funding for the Corporation for Community and National Service at \$402.5 million. National service creates an opportunity structure—community service in exchange for a college education. It encourages volunteerism and rekindles habits of the heart. It fosters the spirit of neighbor helping neighbor that made our country great. National service is about

real people offering real help to real communities.

This bill also provides additional funding for the consumer agencies, including \$42.5 million for the Consumer Product Safety Commission and \$2.3 million for the Consumer Information Center. This is \$200,000 more than the President's request.

Mr. President, I am concerned that funding for NASA is \$100 million below the President's request. I am concerned that space programs are taking a beating. Reductions in our space budget and our uncertainty about NASA out-year numbers jeopardize ongoing commitments, as well as our ability to fund new and innovative space science programs.

Together with the administration, I plan to discuss the future of our space programs at a national space summit, to be held in December. I urge my colleagues to join the discussions that will take a critical look at how to maintain our preeminent space program, despite huge cutbacks in the overall budget.

Fortunately Mission to Planet Earth was spared the cut it took in the original House bill. Mission to Planet Earth data will be used to help prepare our communities to deal with natural disasters, such as the recent Hurricane Fran which negatively affected thousands of people's lives. Mission to Planet Earth will also give our fishermen better tools to sustain their livelihood and help our farmers decide what and when to plant their crops.

This bill also helps NASA employees and their families. It provides NASA employees buyout authority. We expect the buyout authority to reduce the impact of downsizing on people's lives. Furthermore, the bill protects the jobs for the eastern shore of Maryland at Wallops Island.

Mr. President, this bill is about more than just programs and budget authority. This bill streamlines the Federal Government, yet it protects jobs. This bill provides important health benefits for mothers and babies, new benefits for veterans, and housing for low-income families. It maintains our global scientific leadership, and prioritizes our environmental programs. It protects our drinking water and teaches our children the art of community service. From children born with spina bifida to the Nobel laureates who help prevent birth defects, this bill provides real help for real people.

Mr. President. The diversity or programs funded by this bill reflect the diversity of this country. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to support this conference report.

Finally, I would like to thank Senator BOND, Congressman LEWIS and Congressman STOKES for all the hard work they've done to get this bill to conference and to keep this bill from ending up in a continuing resolution. I would personally like to thank my appropriations staff, Sally Chadbourne, Catherine Corson, David Bowers, and

Liz Blevins, as well as the majority staff, Stephen Kohashi, Carrie Apostolou, and Lashawnda Leftwich. I would also like to thank the members of my personal office staff and those on Senator BOND's staff who worked so hard to help us get through this conference.

#### DESIGNATING ROOM S. 131 IN THE CAPITOL AS THE MARK O. HATFIELD ROOM

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate turn to Senate Resolution 298, submitted by Senator BYRD and others, the resolution be deemed agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, all without further action or debate.

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

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that all Senators be added as cosponsors to this resolution.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 298) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 298

Whereas Senator Mark O. Hatfield, the son of Charles Hatfield (a railroad construction blacksmith) and Dovie Odom Hatfield (a school teacher), upon the completion of the 104th Congress, will have served in the United States Senate with great distinction for 30 years;

Whereas Senator Mark O. Hatfield is the longest serving United States Senator from Oregon;

Whereas Senator Mark O. Hatfield serves on the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee on Rules and Administration, the Joint Committee on the Library, and the Joint Committee on Printing;

Whereas Senator Mark O. Hatfield serves as Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations and has provided for the development of major public works projects throughout the State or Oregon, the Pacific Northwest, and the rest of the Nation;

Whereas Senator Mark O. Hatfield has constantly worked for what he calls "the desperate human needs in our midst" by striving to improve health, education, and social service programs;

Whereas Senator Mark O. Hatfield has earned bipartisan respect from his Senate colleagues for his unique ability to work across party lines to build coalitions which secure the enactment of legislation; and

Whereas it is appropriate that a room in the United States Capitol Building be named in honor of Senator Mark O. Hatfield as a reminder to present and future generations of his outstanding service as a United States Senator; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That room S. 131 in the United States Capitol Building is hereby designated as, and shall hereafter be known as, the "Mark O. Hatfield Room" in recognition of the selfless and dedicated service provided by Senator Mark O. Hatfield to the Senate, our Nation, and its people.

#### REAUTHORIZING THE SENATE ARMS CONTROL OBSERVER GROUP

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now turn to

the consideration of Senate Resolution 299 which is at the desk, reauthorizing the Senate Arms Control Observer Group, the resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, all without further action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 299) was agreed to, as follows:

#### S. RES. 299

*Resolved*, That subsection (a) of the first section of Senate Resolution 149, agreed to October 5, 1993 (103d Congress, 1st Session), is amended by striking "until December 31, 1996" and inserting "until December 31, 1998".

#### ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1996

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until the hour of 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 25; further, that immediately following the prayer the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and there then be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 12 noon with Senators permitted to speak for not more than 5 minutes each with the following exceptions for times designated: Senator FAIRCLOTH, 10 minutes; Senator THOMAS, 30 minutes; Senator DASCHLE or his designee, 30 minutes; Senator MURRAY, 10 minutes; Senator KENNEDY, 30 minutes; and Senator REID, 15 minutes.

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

Mr. LOTT. I further ask unanimous consent that at the hour of 12 noon the Senate proceed to executive session to begin consideration of Calendar No. 23, the International Natural Rubber Agreement as under a previous order.

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

#### PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. Tomorrow, there will be a period for morning business to accommodate a number of requests from Senators. At noon, the Senate will consider the natural rubber agreement. However, it is my understanding that a rollcall vote will not be necessary on that matter.

Following disposition of that treaty, the Senate will consider either the pipeline safety bill, with only one issue outstanding on that matter, and I understand they are still working on it, or possibly the work force development conference report or additional debate with regard to the veto message to accompany the partial-birth abortion veto override.

So the Senate will begin consideration of the continuing resolution during tomorrow's session. Therefore, all Senators should expect rollcall votes throughout the day on Wednesday, possibly into the night. Of course, I will be