

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 2130) was deemed read a third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2130

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN PRIVILEGES, EXEMPTIONS, AND IMMUNITIES TO HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICES.

(a) APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IMMUNITIES ACT.—The provisions of the International Organizations Immunities Act may be extended to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same conditions, as such provisions may be extended to a public international organization in which the United States participates pursuant to any treaty or under the authority of any Act of Congress authorizing such participation or making an appropriation for such participation.

(b) APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON CERTAIN STATE AND LOCAL TAXATION.—The President is authorized to apply the provisions of Article I of the Agreement on State and Local Taxation of Foreign Employees of Public International Organizations, done at Washington on April 21, 1994, to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices.

(c) DEFINITION.—The term "Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices" refers to Hong Kong's official economic and trade missions in the United States.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

TREATIES

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following treaties on today's Executive Calendar:

Executive Calendar Nos. 35 through 38.

I further ask unanimous consent that the treaties be considered as having passed through their various parliamentary stages up to and including the presentation of the resolutions of ratification; that all committee provisions, reservations, understandings, et cetera, be considered agreed to; that any statements in regard to these treaties be inserted in the Congressional RECORD as if read; and that the Senate take one vote on the resolutions of ratification to be considered as separate votes; further, that when the resolutions of ratification are voted on the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; the President then be notified of the Senate's action; and that, following disposition of the treaties, the Senate return to legislative session.

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

The treaties will be considered to have passed through their various par-

liamentary stages up to and including the presentation of resolutions of ratification.

The resolutions of ratification are as follows:

INCOME TAX CONVENTION WITH KAZAKSTAN
EXCHANGE OF NOTES RELATING TO THE TAX
CONVENTION WITH KAZAKSTAN

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein), That the Senate advise and consent to the ratification of the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Kazakstan for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, Together with the Protocol, signed at Almaty on October 24, 1993, and Two Related Exchanges of Notes, dated August 1 and September 7, 1994, and dated August 15 and September 7, 1994 (Treaty Doc. 103-33); an Exchange of Notes dated at Washington July 10, 1995, Relating to the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Kazakstan for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, Together with a Related Protocol, signed at Almaty on October 24, 1993 (Treaty Doc. 104-15); and an Exchange of Notes, dated June 16 and 23, 1995 (EC-1431). The Senate's advice and consent is subject to the following proviso, which shall not be included in the instrument of ratification to be signed by the President:

The United States shall not exchange the instruments of ratification with the Government of the Republic of Kazakstan until such time as the Government of the Republic of Kazakstan has notified the Government of the United States that its laws no longer permit anonymous bank accounts to be established.

TAXATION PROTOCOL AMENDING CONVENTION
WITH INDONESIA

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein), That the Senate advise and consent to the ratification of the Protocol, signed at Jakarta on July 24, 1996, Amending the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, with a Related Protocol and Exchange of Notes signed at Jakarta on July 11, 1988 (Treaty Doc. 104-32).

PROTOCOL AMENDING ARTICLE VII OF THE 1948
TAX CONVENTION WITH RESPECT TO THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein), That the Senate advise and consent to the ratification of the Protocol Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Respect of the Netherlands Antilles Amending Article VIII of the 1948 Convention with Respect to Taxes on Income and Certain Other Taxes as Applicable to the Netherlands Antilles, signed at Washington on October 10, 1995 (Treaty Doc. 104-23).

Mr. NICKLES. I ask for a division vote on the resolutions of ratification. The PRESIDING OFFICER. A division has been requested.

Senators in favor of the resolutions of ratification will please stand and be counted. (After a pause.) Those opposed will please stand and be counted.

On a division, two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the af-

firmative, the resolutions of ratification are agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I thank you. I thank my colleague from Kentucky for his assistance on passing these items.

THE PARKS LEGISLATION

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, one thing I would urge my colleagues—and particularly leadership on the Democrat side in the Senate—would be for us to work together to pass the parks bill. Time is growing very, very short. I know that some of our colleagues—we have a lot of colleagues who are retiring this year—have bills that they would like to get passed. And a lot of these bills are very, very important.

I have had the pleasure of working with Senator BUMPERS and Senator PRYOR on one bill, the Arkansas and Oklahoma land exchange. Senator PRYOR is going to be retiring. I would like to pass that bill before he retires.

Senator BRADLEY has worked very, very hard on Sterling Forest, as well as Senator MOYNIHAN, and others; Senator D'AMATO. Sterling Forest—we need to pass these bills. The Presidio is maybe the best known of any of these parks, a beautiful area in San Francisco. A lot of work has gone into the Presidio legislation. I know the Senators from California and others are committed to it. The Senator from California would like to have passed the Presidio legislation, and I really want to do that.

Senator HEFLIN has a couple of bills, and other colleagues who will be leaving. Many of these bills—I guess I will still be around, and some of us will be here next year. Maybe we can take care of them at that time. But a lot of our colleagues will be leaving.

I see Senator NUNN has a couple of provisions.

Most of these are not controversial. I really hope that we can get a comprehensive package before the Senate and pass it. We need to pass it today while the House is still in session.

So I would just urge our colleagues. I know the Senator from Alaska, Senator MURKOWSKI, has worked a long time on a long list of projects. I hope that we can get these through.

So I just ask for bipartisan cooperation. This is not a partisan bill. It is a bill that those of us on the Energy Committee have worked on all year.

Maybe it is not a very good way to legislate when you end up having a bill like this come toward the end of the session. But there have been holds on this bill for months.

Anyway, I just urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to be cooperative to see if we can't pass the Presidio bill and the land exchanges. There are a lot of positive things. I saw, I think, over

a dozen projects in California. A lot of these are environmentally very sensitive and important. I know there are eight in Colorado that likewise are important; a couple in Arizona; Alaska has several.

There are a bunch of projects in here that I think will improve the Park System in the country that will have strong bipartisan support. If we can ever get this bill to a vote my guess is that it will pass if not unanimously very close to unanimously.

So I hope that we could do that, send it to the House, and hopefully get it on the President's desk before the 104th Congress adjourns sine die.

Mr. FORD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

END-OF-SESSION LOGJAM

Mr. FORD. I listened to my counterpart on the Republican side as he has talked about the parks bill. I have not been in the negotiations, but I know something about the negotiations. I understand several offers have been made in an effort to work out this piece of legislation. However, it has always come back, it is all or nothing.

I know it is very easy to pull on the strings of emotion here saying that these items for our retiring Members need to be done and that you are trying to get them done for retiring Members, but it is what kind of meat you put on that skeleton of projects for retiring Members. Now, you can use this all you want to. Hopefully, we will be able to work out something, but when you say it is all or nothing at all, I have been very concerned about the number of bills that have come out of the Energy Committee in the last 2 years. We have not been very productive, I think, and then all of a sudden at the end, next to the last day, we get a humongous bill.

And so the offers have been made. The struggle is still available. And if it is not all or nothing, I think we may be able to sit down and work out a little Henry Clay. Henry Clay was the great compromiser. Henry Clay said compromise was "negotiated hurt." Well, let us sit down and hurt a little bit and get a bill out here that is in the best interests of the country instead of saying, if you do not take this, you do not get anything.

Mr. DORGAN. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. FORD. I will be happy to yield.

Mr. DORGAN. I was listening to the discussion about the parks bill, and I listened to the discussion yesterday about the bill. I listened to the discussions about the continuing resolution and appropriations bills, about the FAA bill. And the common issue with respect to all of them is we find ourselves here right at the edge of the midnight hour on this legislative session and in a circumstance where, as I understand it, four appropriations bills were not even brought to the floor of the Senate. We have a circumstance

here the Senator from Kentucky would know more than most about where the FAA bill was not able to be resolved and finally got here, and now obviously an amendment has been offered. But the reason we find ourselves in a time crunch on these things is because they did not get here until right near the midnight hour.

Mr. FORD. I say to my friend, they are not here yet. They are not here yet.

Mr. DORGAN. That is true. In terms of trying to reach some agreements, I hope very much that those who want to advance the parks bill will understand that all of the interests that are involved in this, including the White House and both bodies here in the Congress, need to be involved in the discussions.

My understanding is that recommendations and negotiations have been offered, and that bill can be resolved. But I am also concerned about our finding ourselves at the end of a session once again with a CR, a continuing resolution which simply throws all of the appropriations bills that are not completed into one big pile, completed at 3 o'clock in the morning. There is not one Member of the Senate who has read it. I do not even know where it is. I do not suspect it is available. But if it is available, no one has read it. When it is available, no one will read it. Maybe the Senate will be forced to read it. I do not know.

But in any event, we should not find ourselves at the end of a session like this up against the wall on critical pieces of legislation. The reasonable way to do completion is earlier in the year to start the pieces of legislation through the process so that you can have back and forth negotiations.

I ask the Senator from Kentucky who has been involved integrally in a couple of these situations, is that not the case? We have seen a legislative logjam self-created, and then people express surprise that, gee, I do not understand why this is not being greased through here. Well, because they created a logjam themselves. We ought to resolve at least never to do this again. I hope we will.

Mr. FORD. I say to my friend, the continuing resolution is nothing new. Sometimes it is for a short period of time; sometimes it is for longer. I think this is the first time we have had a continuing resolution with appropriations bills that have never been to the Senate. There are four of them.

So we do not have to leave here. As I said last night, we do not have to leave here. We are still getting paid whether we are up here or not. You still draw your salary. So we do not have to leave here. We are being paid. I do not think we are earning our keep if we do not do our job. And so here we are with a continuing resolution with appropriations bills that are a must. Throw everything else aside. Appropriations bills are a must to operate government. The Defense bill conference report I do not think is here yet. We are going to try

to wrap all that CR in that so we cannot amend it.

What kind of game are we playing here? And so everybody is checking their list to see if they have their little project in the CR. If they did not get it in the CR, they are fussing. So let us get it out in the Chamber and start looking at it.

I tell you one thing we might do to stop all this. Have a 2-year budget. I have been trying to get it for 8 or 10 years now. We now have a 1-year budget process and 1-year oversight. You can make all the changes in a 2-year budget you can make in a 1-year budget. If you have an emergency, you can correct it. If you have a flood or earthquake or hurricane, whatever it might be, you can have a method by which you can change that.

So let us have some oversight in 1 year. We have a budget for 2 years. We would not be up here with this logjam backed up to the wall and trying to go home, trying to go home without doing the people's business.

I know we are not in the majority, and so therefore we have very little control. So the majority wants to get out of town. With their record, I would want to get out of town, too.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MURKOWSKI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

OMNIBUS PARKS LEGISLATION

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I wonder if I could respond to my good friend from North Dakota relative to his concerns about the process here, particularly on the Presidio-omnibus parks bill, because, I, too, as chairman of the committee on which he serves, feel an extraordinary frustration about what we went through in committee because, as the Members know, we held the hearings, accommodated members as they introduced their bills, and then we attempted to move these bills to the floor.

I think it is important to recognize that virtually every single bill in the parks package, 126 sections to accommodate Members, immediately have holds put on them by one Senator from New Jersey. That is just the fact. The record will reflect that reality. His motivation—it is part of the rules; it is appropriately done—was to get the House to move on Sterling Forest. There were objections over there on Sterling Forest. And that is part of the process. They have a right to do that. But as a consequence, we could not move a single bill to the floor for action because there was a hold on them.

Here we have this package today of 126 sections in the Presidio parks bill, and that is why we have it, Madam President. It is as a consequence of Members using the rules, if you will, to advance the position of their own bills. But my job as chairman of the committee is to try to advance all those bills