

am absolutely committed to that approach. That will be the way I will proceed with regard to this 10 minutes and everything else that I try to do.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank both Senators. I am fully satisfied with the colloquies that have resulted from my inquiry.

May I say to the distinguished majority leader that I do not believe we had the 10 minutes for each leader back when I was the majority leader the first time in 1977. I think this practice grew up in that period or soon thereafter. But in any event, as I thought I said earlier, I have never known—I cannot remember a time in which such a provocative situation might arise. I have never known that to happen. I have never known any majority leader or minority leader to transgress upon the confidence of the membership in giving its acquiescence to the request. It is just that I thought there could be such a situation. I thought we ought to try to clarify it and thus prevent some future misunderstanding. I am satisfied with what has been said.

While I have the floor, so that I will not impose upon the leaders too much, there was a second request made, and it was agreed to, and I just rise at this time to compliment the leaders on making this unanimous consent request and also on the progress that is being made and being discussed to which the majority leader has just referred, anent disorder in the Chamber.

In recent years, we have allowed too much gathering of staffs and too many conversations to go on in the rear of the Chamber, and it does not do the Senate credit. I can remember when we had no benches; we even had no seats in the rear of the Chamber. The staff stood when they came to the floor. They stood or sat on the floor of the Chamber, which I did not like. And it was for that reason that I had, when I was majority whip, chairs brought into the Chamber and a large davenport so staffs would at least have a place to sit.

And then, later, I had the gallery—this gallery here to the northeast, I guess it is—assigned to staff. Then I had these handsome benches and the bannister put back here so the staffs could be appropriately accommodated. I am glad that the request includes the words, “and that the Sergeant at Arms be instructed to rotate such staff members as space allows.” I want to thank the leaders for including that language.

I especially want to take the floor here so that the Sergeant at Arms and all Senators—the leaders need our cooperation as well—so that the Sergeant at Arms and all Senators will be well aware that when more staff members are in the Chamber than the seating accommodations will allow, then there is a special gallery for staffs, and I would hope that the Sergeant at Arms would help us to keep the number of staff people in the Chamber down. I assure both leaders they will have my cooperation. I try, as I see that there are

too many staff people—and I have two or three staff persons—I try to send mine out so as to leave only one. I am very much heartened by the letters that I have received from both leaders in response to concerns such as this, that I have expressed.

I foresee that we Senators are going to be even more proud of our leaders in the future than perhaps we have been at some times in the past. I see not only a willingness but a desire on the part of both leaders to have Members speak to them about matters that concern us. As I have noted, I followed through on that, and that has not been the end of it. Both leaders have written to me to let me know that they are aware of a matter and that they are working on it. I thank both, and I think it is to the credit of the two leaders, and certainly will redound to the credit of the Senate, if we can have better order in the coming days.

I thank both leaders.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. I thank again the Senator from West Virginia for his comments. I am pleased that he noted this unanimous-consent agreement. The Sergeant at Arms is on the floor. We have discussed this matter, and we are undertaking procedures to set up this rotation of staff members. We are making sure that Senators are informed of that. We will remind Senators, probably on the 21st, of a number of these types of things so that they will not be surprised, and call on Members on both sides for their cooperation and courtesy. In fact, at the concluding part of our unanimous consent request today I will make a few comments about how we are going to try to reestablish some of the proper procedures, respect for each other's needs as Senators, and call on our Senators to be aware of that and to assist us as we try to do that. So we are not going to forget and, while we are not going to be dictatorial about it, we are going to try our very best to ask our Senators to recognize this is in the best interests of the institution and will allow us to do our work in a more efficient and effective way, I do believe.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the leader. We owe it to the Senate, we owe it to the membership, we owe it to the people of the United States of America with whom the power resides.

I thank the leader.

LEGISLATION ON AN APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, originally I had thought that at this point the Senate would grant a unanimous consent that would in effect make null and void the precedent set in March of 1995 with respect to legislation on an appropriations bill. Having spoken with the Democratic leader, we both feel, now, that the Senate would be better served by conducting a rollcall vote that would overturn the precedent.

Needless to say, this vote would occur at the first opportunity the Senate has during the appropriations process this year, at least we think that would be the appropriate time for it to occur. The Democratic leader has indicated to me that he would support such an action in the early summer of this year as we begin the appropriations process, and I look forward to his cooperation at that time, when we have the vote which would reinstate the point of order with respect to legislation on an appropriations bill.

I believe, and I think the Democratic leader would agree, that the process has been abused in recent months. There seems to be a growing use of this opportunity, and, in some of the discussions that we had at the end of the session last year, I believe that point was made by the Senator from South Dakota and perhaps the Senator from West Virginia. I think it was an unintentioned precedent that was set. I do not think it is in the best interests or the long-term interests of the Senate. I would like for us to preserve rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I think the Senate would be better served if we would do that, preserve that rule. So we will look for the opportunity, the best opportunity we can find, to consider changing back that precedent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. The overturning of the Chair, back in March 1995, had far-reaching consequences, as the majority leader has indicated. By overturning the Chair, the Senate no longer had the legislation on appropriations point of order to keep legislative riders from being added to crucial appropriations bills. Many on this side of the aisle believe the point of order should be restored. However, we also believe that this situation should be remedied in the same way that it was imposed on the Senate; that is, by rollcall vote. So I intend to work with the majority leader to see if we can, by rollcall vote, restore this point of order at some point in the early months of the 105th Congress.

I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREE- MENT—INTRODUCTION OF LEGIS- LATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the introduction of Senate bills, concurrent, joint, and simple resolutions not be in order prior to Tuesday, January 21.

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

Mr. LOTT. This now establishes Tuesday, January 21, as the first day in which Members may introduce legislation. I will inform my colleagues that Members may make statements during the next day or two regarding any proposed legislation, however all Senators

must wait until January 21 to formally introduce such legislation.

I might note that we have been working very aggressively to get organized quickly. We agreed early on the committee ratios. I believe both parties now have decided most of their committee membership. The committee chairmen will be elected by their respective committees today, ratified by our conference tomorrow. I assume the same thing will occur or has occurred on the Democratic side. Hopefully, by Thursday we will have available to the Senate the list of all the committee membership and we will be ready for business.

There are a number of committees that intend to start hearings this week on some issues, as I understand it, like airbags; perhaps some early hearings on confirmations of the President's nominations. Again, next week I understand that there will certainly be hearings on the nominees that the President has submitted to the Senate. We are anxious to cooperate with the President, work expeditiously on these nominations from the Executive Calendar, and the day after inauguration, or certainly that week of the inauguration, we hope to have some of these nominations ready for a vote of the full Senate. I believe the cooperation by the Democratic leader in this effort will allow us to concentrate on that. And then we will have our opportunity to introduce our first bills on the 21st, make our statements, and get going for business. So I appreciate your cooperation, Senator DASCHLE.

Mr. DASCHLE. If the majority leader will yield for a moment to let me make a comment, I fully share the views expressed by the leader with regard to the timeframe within which legislation will be considered and introduced. We will be holding a conference tomorrow to talk in part about the intentions of our caucus to introduce the first 10 bills, numbered S. 11 through S. 20. But let me also emphasize how appreciative we are with regard to the early consideration of some of the nominees by the administration. They have emphasized, on a number of occasions, their desire to have their people in place as quickly as possible. That requires, of course, early consideration and early confirmation of many of these nominees. The distinguished majority leader again has reiterated his desire to do that, and I am appreciative of that and will work with him to accommodate that schedule.

So, I think we are doing the very best we can in meeting all of the different demands that we have upon us, schedulewise, and I appreciate very much the interest in moving ahead on many of these nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that, when the Senate completes its

business today, it stand in recess until 12:30 on Thursday, January 9.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Hearing no objection, so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, on Thursday, January 9, at 12:40 p.m., the Senate will proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives for the counting of the electoral votes at 1 p.m. Senators are asked to be prompt and in the Chamber no later than 12:30 on Thursday. Following the counting of the votes, the Senate will adjourn until Tuesday, January 21, 1997.

PROVIDING FOR ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send an adjournment resolution to the desk providing for adjournment of the Senate over until Tuesday, January 21. I ask unanimous consent that it be reported by title, agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WELLSTONE. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin is recognized.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I have had some discussion with the majority and minority leaders on this question. I feel very strongly, and I think that an overwhelming majority of people in the country feel, that there is no more important thing we can do than to pass a reform bill and get a lot of this big money out of politics.

In this last election cycle, we saw the worst of the worst on top of a system that has not worked well for the people in the country. I feel like we should not go into recess and we ought to get started on this. I wonder if the majority leader can make a commitment that within the first 100 days, we will at least have such a bill on the floor of the Senate.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. I will say to the distinguished Senator that it is my intent to urge early consideration of the issues that came to the forefront during the campaign and the election last year. I have asked the Governmental Affairs Committee to be the only committee to take a look at some of the alleged violations that occurred—perhaps some illegalities even, in terms of contributions during the campaign—to see if there is anything there that will justify proceeding further. I am not prejudging that at all.

I also have had an early conversation with the chairman of the Rules Committee and have asked him to have some early hearings—and these are not intended to be dilatory at all—hearings to get into, seriously, what happened, what needs to be done, to see if we can find a way that we can come to an

agreement on a bill that can pass the Senate, one that will not be filibustered by the Democrats or by the Republicans. Clearly, we have some disagreements on what the solutions are, but I fear that if we try to put a specific date on it, it will make the likelihood of our success less likely or more difficult.

I think that the Senate should proceed always with thought and thoroughness and try to see where we can come together. We can establish right here right now what we can't agree on. The question is what can we agree on. So we are intent on working on that.

The various committees have some things they are going to have to work on. The Rules Committee has an assignment right now that they are going to have to work on. I am going to urge Senator WARNER not to let that interfere with getting together in a bipartisan way to see if we can come up with some agreement.

We have the confirmations which we will be trying to do. We have a lot of things coming to the forefront. I am hoping, for instance, that we can take up and consider the so-called ISTEPA bill, the highway bill, before the Easter recess. It is a reauthorization we have to do. It is very important all across this country. I am not saying it is as important or more important than campaign finance reform. I am just saying there is a lot of work we need to do.

On the 21st, it is my hope and desire, after notification of the Democratic leader, to inform all Senators what the bills are that we hope to deal with before the Easter recess, perhaps on the floor. It will not be all inclusive.

I will be happy to talk further with the Senator from Minnesota. We are not going to try to shove this aside. I don't think we can. There are too many questions raised by this election. There are too many questions about how contributions are made, who makes them, how much they can make. I don't think we have all the answers yet, though, and to say we are going to do it in a 100-day demarcation—I have not even had a chance to look at the calendar and see what that means. It might be during the middle of the period that we said we would be out for the Easter recess.

I have tried working with Senator DASCHLE to tell Members more this year than has usually been the case what they can expect or anticipate in terms of being out. I would like, at least, to have us sit down and look at the calendar and see what this means and how it affects other things, such as budget negotiations, the importance of bringing it up before the Easter recess. The law requires we act before April 15 on the budget resolution. Why don't we try to do it before April 15 and comply with the law? In order to do that, and the way that time falls, there is only 1 week after the Easter recess before the 15th.