

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.

I am hoping we will do—the House and Senate working with the administration—the budget resolution before the Easter recess so we can come back and get the final agreement on the conference report.

That is why I ask the Senator, if he will, to give us the opportunity to show our good faith to work seriously on this matter, but without any arbitrary deadline before we even have a chance to sit down and see what it means on the calendar.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, can I also make a comment? Let me, first, compliment the distinguished Senator from Minnesota for his adamant endorsement of the need to move ahead on campaign finance reform. I share his utter frustration and extraordinary concern for the current method with which we finance our campaigns. I share it to the degree that I intend to offer, as the very first bill that I will introduce, in consultation, of course, with our conference tomorrow, S. 11, a campaign finance reform bill built upon the remarkable work done by a previous majority leader, Senator BYRD, years ago, as well as Senators FEINGOLD, KERRY, and others who have played a key role in this debate in the past. I will do so with every expectation that we can succeed, at long last, to pass meaningful, comprehensive campaign finance reform this year. And I feel as strongly as the Senator from Minnesota that the legislation should be considered as early as possible. It is long overdue.

But, as the majority leader has indicated, some of that work is already being done, and there are other issues that must also be considered on a timely basis. For example, I am concerned—and I discussed this again with the President as recently as yesterday—about the need to accelerate consideration of the chemical weapons treaty, because if we are not able to complete our work on that particular measure prior to the first part of April, we will suffer extraordinary diplomatic and legal consequences in the international community.

So not only do we have the budget, but we have the chemical weapons treaty and a number of other issues that will have to be addressed. That does not mean we cannot begin to work and work through all of the issues relating to campaign finance reform in a timely, meaningful and, hopefully, bipartisan fashion. We must do that, but we don't need immediate floor time necessarily to do that. We do need a commitment on both sides to begin working together to finally enact fair, meaningful reform.

The majority leader has given me that commitment in the discussions we have had with regard to both the committees, as well as his individual efforts, to come to some resolution on

this matter. I am hopeful we can do that.

So, in working with the Senator from Minnesota, and certainly with the majority leader and others, I believe we are off to a start that ought to ensure some optimism with regard to our prospects for success on campaign finance reform this year.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I appreciate the discussions that I have had with the majority leader and minority leader. I was trying to get back to them as they were going through the resolutions.

I guess when I hear the majority leader and minority leader speak about this and other business that we have to transact, while I absolutely am convinced about their commitment, it just brings into even sharper focus for me the need for this body to make a commitment: that we will by the end of 100 days have a bill on the floor of the Senate. We have been talking about this for a long, long time. I don't have the experience some Senators do. I am just starting my second term. But every single time this has come up, speeches have been made, and then we end up not passing a reform bill. I think nothing could be more important than for us to make a commitment.

What about within the first 4 months as opposed to the first 3 months? Can the majority leader make a commitment that he will do everything possible to try to have a bill on the floor of the Senate within a 4-month period? That is reasonable, and that is all I am asking for.

I think the majority leader is committed to this. I want to say to my friend, and he is a friend, that of course I am not judging what the specific content will be. I am not requesting any commitment to a particular content, but I am requesting a commitment that we go on record and—you know, if we had to have a vote on this, then I think it would be a vote as to whether or not Senators, Democrats and Republicans, are serious about taking action within a 4-month period, which is very reasonable. I do not know how many votes there would be, but I think that is what it is about. I want to be counted as someone who is willing to make a commitment to this.

Would the majority leader be willing to make a commitment that certainly with his considerable skill and ability he will, along with the minority leader with his skill and ability, that the two of them together as leadership, will make a commitment that within the first 4 months they will do everything possible to take action and have the debate that the people in the country are ready for and pass—and pass—the piece of legislation? We do not have to say "pass," but at least bring a bill to the floor.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, just a bit of history, as I recall it. Of course, we

have passed campaign finance reform bills in the past. I voted for the one that is in law now. I believe, in more recent history, there have been occasions when maybe—I know the Senate passed a bill one year. I think it wound up languishing in the House. And then the reverse, I think, has happened. I really believe from my time in watching the Senate that some time is your ally, giving things an opportunity to be carefully considered and percolate along a little bit.

Last year a lot of people talked about how we were able to get a lot of legislation passed at the end of the session. One of the reasons is a lot of those bills had been in the mill for months, some of them 2 years, some of them 10 years. But they finally were ready, and they, in most instances, had broad support. So there is a history of our making a run at it. We make a stand, we make a statement; we get nothing. Are we interested in making a statement about our concern, or are we interested in getting something done? I think the latter is the case.

When you talk about 4 months, for instance, are you talking about April? Once again, if you are—January, February, March, April—you are not talking about much difference from the first request. When you add again, when you look at the budget issue, when you look at the potential for when we deal with the Chemical Weapons Treaty, if we do come to that agreement, that understanding, I believe there is a significance to April 15 for that.

I just again implore my colleague from Minnesota not to try to set a specific date. This is not going to be your last opportunity. This is only your first opportunity. You will have an opportunity to witness our conduct and judge whether or not it is being seriously discussed. There are a lot of people with a lot of different interests here that Senators have who have worked on it in the past, like Senator FEINGOLD or Senator MCCAIN and Senator MCCONNELL, and others who feel more concerned about it this year than they did even a year ago.

I have talked with a lot of Senators already and outside groups that are concerned in all kinds of ways about how we do this. We are not ignoring it at all. You are working on it. We are working on it. We are already making progress. You have a bill that perhaps is the same bill, perhaps with some modification, as the bill last year sponsored by Senators FEINGOLD, MCCAIN and others. But let us get started. Let us see how we do. And the Senator can witness our advent.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, if I could just also respond to a couple things.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. First of all, let me say I have not had the opportunity to talk with Senator FEINGOLD and Senator MCCAIN and Senator John KERRY

and others, including Senator LEVIN, who expressed a real interest in this issue as to what timeframe they would propose.

I would like to seize on the phrase that the distinguished Senator from Minnesota used just a moment ago. That is "make your best effort." He said, "Will you make your best effort?" And he suggested a timeframe. I think I can say on behalf of both leaders—certainly for myself—that we are going to make our best effort. He knows my resolve to get this effort accomplished in a successful way. I think the distinguished majority leader has also expressed a determined interest in finding ways to do it.

We will make our best effort and we will do everything possible to bring this to the floor at the earliest possible time with the greatest degree of expectation that we will succeed. It is my hope that we will succeed in 100 days or 4 months or at some timeframe within the first part of this year. I wish we had succeeded in previous Congresses. And I have a very strong sense of urgency about reforming the system as soon as possible so that we can restore some public faith in our electoral system and get on with other pressing business. Still, I think what is more important than the day we start floor consideration is the sincerity of the effort itself and a commitment to that effort on the part of both sides. I think that you have heard that demonstrated again this morning.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I will not drag this on. I have some mixed feelings. I think I will have to object because, again, I have tremendous respect for both leaders, but when I hear language about "best effort," "within as reasonable a time period as possible," it just represents really not any kind of specific commitment at all.

I will just say that those who have worked on the reform—and the Senator mentioned many; the Senator mentioned Republicans as well as Democrats—every one of them has said, if we let this drag on, we are going to have more and more acrimony, given all sorts of hearings and whatnot coming up, and we are going to make a huge mistake. We need to make this a priority of this 105th Congress, and we need to focus on this, and we need to get the job done. I think a 4-month period is more than reasonable just to have a commitment from the leadership to make every effort possible. I am willing to go with that language to have such a piece of legislation on the floor of the Senate, understanding that this is the core issue.

I think really this is an issue that people are talking about more than any other issue in the country right now. I do not think it is unreasonable. I thought 100 days, and I thought 4 months. I do not think it would be unreasonable at all for me to make this request. I do not know why the leadership would not be able to say we will

make every effort possible to have this bill on the floor within the next 4 months. And if not, then I think I will object.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, before the objection is heard, I would like to make one additional point.

If the Senator objects, then we will have to put in a quorum and go with another alternative, which would be to basically have to recess over until every 3 days and the House and the Senate then will have to make arrangements to come in every third day, to call our staff to be here, and to go through the costs of doing that. I just do not think that is the way we want to begin the year, going through an exercise that is not necessary, that does cost time and money, without accomplishing anything.

I again implore the Senator to think about what we have had to say, and I ask him not to object at this point on our opening day. This is just the kickoff. Let us not fumble on the first play and look at the alternative.

The alternative, if the Senator objects—we are not going to get a recorded vote on it. We are going to go to another alternative, which will lead to inconvenience and costs without any positive results. I hope the Senator will also factor that into his feelings. The Senator has not, and I have not, allowed this to become acrimonious or partisan. I do not want it to be. But the Senator would leave us no option at this point on our first day but to consider another route.

So I remind the Senator one more time, too, that last year there were enough different times that I made some commitments to him that were not necessarily well received on my side. But we kept our word. We got the job done. I may not be able to do just that same sort of thing this time. But I hope that the majority leader's assurances on opening day, based on my relatively short time but the record that I have, would have weight with the Senator from Minnesota. We are asking the Senator, both of us, the leaders, to give us this opportunity to show our good intentions. Then if the Senator is not satisfied with it, come back again.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, if I could also add, the majority leader has referenced times when we have very willingly accommodated the Senator from Minnesota. I can recall on a number of occasions over the last 24 months requests made by the distinguished Senator from Minnesota that we have been able to accommodate to suit schedules and to suit other legislative needs. I will certainly look forward to accommodating his needs and requests during the 105th Congress.

I hope that Senators who have objections will notify me personally prior to the time they are going to come to the floor with indications of this kind. It is cumbersome and certainly has created difficulties for Senators who are not here. So it is my hope, too, to accommodate Senators, to demonstrate again

a willingness to work together, again, with the clear understanding that I am every bit as committed as he has indicated he is to campaign finance reform. I also urge the Senator to cooperate and to work with us on this particular matter.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, finally, and so we can move forward, just one more time for the context, this is the core issue. That is why I come to the floor. I know other Senators feel the same. I do not lay any claim to more righteousness about it. This is a core issue.

People in the country have just absolutely lost their confidence in this political process. I do not think they are real optimistic about our taking any action. In all due respect to the leadership, I have heard too many of my own colleagues talk about reform and then dismiss it, saying it is not going to really happen. I already hear the discussions of how people can raise money for the next cycle.

The only request I made of leadership today—and the wording really is, I think, very modest. It was just a commitment from the leadership. I started out 100 days, at least within the next 4 months, that the leadership would make a commitment to do everything possible to get a reform bill on the floor of the Senate. That is all I asked for.

Now, Mr. President, the majority leader said, well, the only alternative is to go into recess. That is not the only alternative. That is not my alternative. We have a vote. We can have a vote on adjournment. I know what the vote will be. I am sure there will be an overwhelming vote for adjournment. But if there are only two people, one, or three that say, "No, we are ready to take on this reform and get to work," I am proud to be counted as the one or two or three. This is not the only alternative.

Mr. DASCHLE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I withhold for a moment.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I was watching on television the discussion going on here. I just urge my colleague from Minnesota to let us go ahead with the ordinary historical business of the Senate. He and I share the same zeal, dedication, and effort toward getting this issue done. I appreciate the comments of the majority leader and of the distinguished Democrat leader.

I think at this point it would not be appropriate for us to begin the very first day of the U.S. Senate, the first day of the new term, for us to begin on this note. I think we will have plenty of time to adopt that strategy and tactic. I do not like for us to discomfort our colleagues on this day of celebration for both new and reelected Members. I think that the issue has to be addressed as quickly as possible. I believe that American public opinion will

demand that we move forward. I do not think there is any doubt about it.

I urge my friend from Minnesota to let the Senate move forward on this day, this very important day, before we have to start calling people back here and going into quorum calls and that kind of thing. This is, if I may say in all due respect to my friend from Minnesota, not appropriate on this day. I urge my friend from Minnesota allow the Senate to move forward, again, re-emphasizing my commitment to him that we will move forward in a bipartisan fashion on this compelling issue.

Mr. DASCHLE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Could I ask my colleague from Arizona—I do not think it puts him on the spot—I have no question about his commitment or the commitment of any number of other Senators. I find it puzzling that the only thing I asked for today—because I do have a real fear this is just going to get put off and we are not going to take action—the only thing I asked for, and maybe my colleague did not hear this, was a commitment from the leadership to do everything possible. I used that word, and I started with 100 days, within 4 months, and get a bill on the floor. That is all I ask for.

I think it would be very important to get that kind of a leadership commitment.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I had suggested the absence of quorum. I think we need to have the opportunity—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the majority leader yield?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I join the distinguished Democratic leader in suggesting the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I have listened to my three colleagues, and having been sworn in today I understand their point about the occasion. So what I want to do, in the spirit of the special day today, I withdraw my objection, but I want to go on record, I am going on record today that I am going to have the same amendment dealing with our recess in February if we do not get to work on this. We should not be taking a recess in February if we are not going to take up this piece of legislation of reform as soon as possible, that we are dragging it out, and I can see what is going to happen.

So today I will not object, but I will come out with a similar initiative, I say to my colleague from Arizona, and maybe we should be working today and saying we should not be in recess in February.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, let me thank the distinguished Senator from

Minnesota for his cooperation this afternoon. He feels very, very strongly about this issue and has confirmed that again in a colloquy over the last half hour. I appreciate very much his resolve and intend to work with him very carefully and closely to see that we expeditiously consider this very important legislation.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, did the Chair rule that the unanimous-consent request was approved?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The unanimous-consent request has been approved.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 3) was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 3

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns on Thursday, January 9, 1997, pursuant to a motion made by the Majority Leader or his designee, in accordance with the provisions of this resolution, it stand recessed or adjourned until 12:00 noon on Tuesday, January 21, 1997, or until such time on that day as may be specified by the Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until 12:00 noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution; and that when the House adjourns on Thursday, January 9, 1997, it stand adjourned until 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 20, 1997; that when the House adjourns on Monday, January 20, 1997, it stand adjourned until 12:00 noon on Tuesday, January 21, 1997; and that when the House adjourns on Tuesday, January 21, 1997, it stand adjourned until 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 4, 1997, or until 12:00 noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution.*

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and the House, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

#### COMMENDING SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD FOR HIS YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk commending Senator ROBERT C. BYRD for his years of public service, that the clerk read the resolution, that upon its reading, it be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

S. RES. 7

Whereas, the Honorable Robert C. Byrd has dutifully and faithfully served the people of West Virginia since January 8, 1947;

Whereas, for 50 years, he had dedicated himself to improving the lives and welfare of the people of West Virginia and the United States,

Whereas, his 50-year commitment to public service has been one of total dedication to serving the people of his beloved state and to the highest ideals of public service,

Whereas, he has held more legislative offices than anyone else in the history of his state, and is the longest serving Senator in the history of his state: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the U.S. Senate congratulates the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, the senior Senator from West Virginia, for his 50 years of public service to the people of West Virginia and to the United States of America.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Senator Robert C. Byrd.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 7) was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I want to heartily endorse this resolution. I thank the people of West Virginia for electing Senator ROBERT C. BYRD to these many offices, both in West Virginia and here in the U.S. Senate. He is truly a monumental Senator in terms of importance and perspective in the history of the Senate. I sat here in my chair a month ago and listened to Senator BYRD speak to the new Senators about this institution, about its history and the importance of it and the significance that it has played in the role of this country. It was extremely interesting and, also, in some respects, intimidating because he made us aware of what an awesome responsibility we have here in the U.S. Senate. I enjoyed it thoroughly.

I appreciate his friendship. I have found that he is one that you can go to for counsel and for advice. Even sometimes when he does not agree with what you are trying to do, he will give you a straight answer as to what you could do under the rules. He has a lighter side you don't always see here, but we know he has been seen playing a little fiddle and talking about Billy Byrd, his dog. He is quite a Senator. We appreciate so much his contribution to this institution. I am delighted that we are doing this resolution recognizing his 50 years of outstanding service to West Virginia and the United States.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, tomorrow marks the momentous day in the life and career of one of this Chamber's most esteemed and respected Members. Fifty years ago, on January 8, 1947, ROBERT C. BYRD took his seat in the West Virginia State Legislature, thus beginning a remarkable half century of public service. I have quite an extensive statement that I wish to make following the completion of our resolution and consideration. I must again congratulate our distinguished Senator for a remarkable career. We saw another demonstration of his intellect and his institutional memory and the remarkable contribution he makes to that just this afternoon as he talked about the early days of this Senate and how the President pro tempore was selected and the length of time it took and the degree to which we followed procedure in ensuring that we notify both the President and the House of Representatives in proper order. It was a small yet very significant contribution to our dialog this morning and,