

Member, in the case of Committee hearings, and by the Subcommittee Chairman and ranking Member, in the case of Subcommittee hearings, 48 hours in advance of the hearing that attendance will be taken; otherwise, no attendance will be taken. Attendance at all hearings is encouraged.●

PROVIDING FOR ADJOURNMENT OF BOTH HOUSES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 21, the adjournment resolution.

I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 21) providing for an adjournment of both Houses.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I shall not object, I just wanted to bring up two quick questions with the majority leader.

Last time after the swearing-in ceremony, the majority leader will remember that I said I might object and I asked the majority leader whether I could get some kind of a commitment for a clear timeframe for taking up comprehensive campaign finance reform. I do not know whether the majority leader is prepared to make that commitment tonight, but I do want to be clear that if by March when we come back there has been no commitment made as to when we will have a bill on the floor and how we will move forward on it—because otherwise I fear delay and delay and delay, much like we did with gift ban—I will start to take amendments, campaign finance reform amendments, and attach those amendments to other bills because I believe we have to move this discussion forward. I think people want action.

I am interested in the response of the majority leader. I want to make clear to colleagues, because I think you need to give people a warning, that when we come to our next recess it may be the case that I will not agree to a unanimous consent. So I am using the model the majority leader and I worked out together at the end on gift ban and we came up with reform. I am using that model, and I think it is important for Senators to be out here on the floor really pushing very hard for this. I wonder whether the majority leader could tell me whether he has any plan now, whether we could get a specific time when we could have a bill—again, I am not trying to predetermine what the piece of legislation would be—on this floor.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I could respond to the Senator's question. First of all, it is very hard to pick a date, to say by a date certain we will get something done. For instance, on

the matter that has been pending before the Senate, Senate Joint Resolution 1, the constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget, we had hoped we could have a reasonable and fair debate and amendments being offered—I believe the Senator from Minnesota has had three or so and maybe he had some more—and that by the end of the month we would have a vote on that after having had a good, fair debate and amendments being offered.

But now we are having trouble getting amendments up and getting a time agreed to. Now I understand we may have, I do not know, 20 or 25 amendments lurking around out there. So now I have to begin to consider filing cloture on something that—we do not want to start the cloture wars this year. So I try to take into consideration everybody's needs, and we have problems we have to take into consideration, like funerals of relatives or the Ambassador today. So it is very hard to say a time certain.

Another example is, before we have reform, I think we ought to find out, first of all, what laws have been violated already on the books. Today we have in the paper that China is working, perhaps, on trying to get some foreign contributions, illegal contributions in the Presidential campaign. There seems to be an article every day—every day.

Before we start trying to reform a law, I think we ought to see a law that is already on the books that I voted for back in 1973 or 1974 that is being used or abused. Yet we are seeing an all-out fight to stop the funding for the Governmental Affairs Committee to begin its work to find out what happened so we will know what laws have been violated, so we will know what kind of reform we may or may not need. Unfortunately, as it is being delayed and the appearance of obstruction in getting that hearing started, that has an impact on when we might get to a vote on legislation here in the Senate.

The next thing is we would like to have hearings on this issue in the Rules Committee. In fact, we will have. And yet the Rules Committee has been tied up for almost 2 weeks on trying to get the committee funding resolution and the resolution of the question with regard to the alleged illegal contributions in the Presidential campaign in 1996.

Then, also, I have to say to the Senator, are we ready now to begin to work on a bill that maybe both sides can agree to, or will it be one where you want to stick it to our side? Are you ready now to begin to get some language in there that would say that we must have paycheck equity? In other words, when I talk to my friends in my hometown, union members, some of which I used to represent when I practiced law, and my father was one, they get irate that their dues are being used for campaign purposes across this country without their approval or designation.

So, there is not going to be a campaign finance bill that does not address a question like that. So, is the Senator ready to include something like that in the legislation?

Mr. WELLSTONE. I am pleased to respond to the majority leader. I did not know we would have quite this debate but I understand—

Mr. LOTT. Do I have the floor?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader has the floor.

Mr. LOTT. I try to be calm and respond gently, but when the Senator pricks me a little bit, I have to try to respond in a way that explains why I can't just say, "April 15 on tax day we are going to take this bill up." I need help. I need cooperation on your side. We have done that.

The Senator from Minnesota knows that last year I worked with him, I kept my word to him even one time when there was a little misunderstanding, but we worked through it and got it done. I am willing to do that, but you have to keep in mind what we are trying to accomplish here on a number of issues that do interrelate.

I am happy to yield for a response to that.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I shall be brief, Mr. President. The majority leader, I appreciate his graciousness. I actually like his passion. It does not trouble me at all.

Mr. President, I actually made it very clear that I am not trying to—he has his own ideas about what should be in a bill. I did not insist on a particular piece of legislation. We have the McCain-Feingold bill that has been much talked about and could be a vehicle that people could work with.

My point is I learned through the gift ban we only finally took action when we just started putting that piece of legislation on other bills. The majority leader is, after all, the majority leader, and, yes, we are now on the constitutional amendment to balance the budget, but the majority leader, I think, can be a real leader on this if we can get a commitment that says, look, we will not have delay and delay and delay. We will have a bill on the floor and resolve this by July 4 or whatever date the majority leader picks out, and that makes it clear to people in the country that we are not going to just stall and stall.

The majority leader is talking about today's piece in the Washington Post, but the point is we do not really need to find out that there are problems in the way campaigns are financed. This has been going on for a long time. There is plenty to be fixed. People in the country are experts at what they do not like. There is no reason whatever that we cannot move forward with a bill. I just would like to get a commitment. I take it from what the majority leader has said today and the way he said it that he is not ready to make such a commitment. That is fine, but I want to be clear that if that is the case come March, I think the majority leader can expect to see at least

on my part as a Senator from Minnesota, some different parts of campaign finance reform as amendments on other bills. I want colleagues to know that this time I am not objecting to the UC for recess. But, come next spring—and this is plenty of warning—that may very well happen.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I reclaim my time. I understand. As I have said earlier this year, and again here today, every Senator is within his or her rights to offer amendments. I know, as we go forward, there will be disagreements, and I know that the Senator from Minnesota is going to pursue this issue. He is entitled to do that. I appreciate his comments today and that he is not going to object. We will have to see how it moves forward in the future.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no objection, the resolution is agreed to.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 21) was agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 21

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, February 13, 1997, it stand adjourned until 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 25, 1997, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate adjourns or recesses at the close of business on Thursday, February 13, 1997, pursuant to a motion made by the Majority Leader, or his designee, in accordance with this concurrent resolution, it stand recessed or adjourned until 11:30 a.m. on Monday, February 24, 1997, or 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 noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

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

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 36

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 1:30 on Monday, February 24, the Senate begin consideration of House Joint Resolution 36 under the statutory limitations. I further ask that following the expiration or yielding back of the 2-hour debate limit, the resolution be considered read the third time and set aside; and, finally, beginning at 2:10, Tuesday, February 25, there be 5 minutes of debate, equally divided in the usual form, prior to a vote on the resolution, which would begin at 2:15 on Tuesday, February 25, with no further intervening action or debate.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this is the population planning language. In our

continuing resolution, last year, we included statutory language that would require a vote before funds could be released. This is dealing with that issue. Therefore, there will be a vote around 2:15 on Tuesday on that population planning issue.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, February 24, immediately following the vote on or in relation to the Byrd amendment, Senator REID be recognized to offer an amendment relative to Social Security. I further ask unanimous consent that when the Senate convenes on Tuesday, February 25, the time between 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. be equally divided in the usual form on the Reid amendment.

I also ask unanimous consent that following the vote at 2:15 on Tuesday, February 25, the Senate resume debate on the Reid amendment until 6 p.m., with a vote occurring on or in relation to the Reid amendment beginning at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, February 25.

I finally ask that on Wednesday, February 26, Senator FEINSTEIN be recognized at 9 a.m. to offer an amendment, with the time between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. divided equally in the usual form for debate on the Feinstein amendment; and, finally, a vote to occur on or in relation to the Feinstein amendment at 11 a.m. on the 26th.

I also ask that no amendments be in order to Reid or Feinstein or any language proposed to be stricken.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, that means we will have a vote on the Byrd amendment around 5:30 on Monday. We will come in at 9 on Tuesday, the week of the 24th and 25th, and we will have debate during the morning of Tuesday on the Reid amendment. We will recess for the policy luncheons then and come in at 2:15 for a vote on the population planning issue. We will continue to debate the Reid amendment after that, with a vote at 6 o'clock on Tuesday, the 25th. We will come in at 9 o'clock on Wednesday and begin the debate on the Feinstein amendment and vote at 11 o'clock.

I thank the Democratic leader for his cooperation in getting these three amendments to the constitutional amendment for a balanced budget scheduled. Because of that cooperation, I did not file a cloture motion this afternoon. That is somewhat risky, because if we don't get good cooperation, if we don't work through these amendments with time agreements, that will mean that I could not file a cloture motion and require a vote until Wednesday of that week. But if the Members will work with us in good

faith, on both sides, if we make progress and we move toward completion of the constitutional amendment that first week that we are back, ending the 28th, then maybe a cloture motion will not be necessary. But we must have cooperation on these amendments to either get the ones that are not serious dispensed with, or to get a vote scheduled quickly on Wednesday of that week.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 581

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 581 has arrived from the House. I would ask for its first reading.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows.

A bill (H.R. 581) to provide that the President may make funds appropriated for population planning and other population assistance available on March 1, 1997, subject to restrictions on assistance to foreign organizations that perform or actively promote abortions.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I would now ask for its second reading and object to my own request on behalf of the other side of the aisle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be read for a second time on the next legislative day.

OMNIBUS COMMITTEE FUNDING RESOLUTION FOR 1997 AND 1998

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 16, Senate Resolution 54.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows.

A resolution (S. Res. 54) authorizing biennial expenditures by committees of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution appear at this point in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 54) was agreed to, as follows: