

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 122

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 2:15 p.m., the Senate turn to the continuing resolution, H.J. Res. 122, if received from the House, and the resolution be read the third time, agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING
APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL
YEAR 2000

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed immediately to Calendar No. 428, H.J. Res. 84, and following the reporting by the clerk, the amendment at the desk sponsored by myself be agreed to, the resolution be read the third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (H.J. Res. 84) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes.

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

The amendment (No. 4357) was agreed to, as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That Public Law 106-275, is further amended by striking the date specified in section 106(c) and inserting "November 14, 2000."

Amend the title so as to read: "Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes."

The resolution (H.J. Res. 84), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I announce then to the Senate that the continuing resolution to be passed at 2:15 today provides for a continuing of the Government for 1 day. The resolution just passed provides for Government funding through November 14, 2000.

I thank the Democratic leader for his cooperation on this. I know he has been involved in this process, trying to find a date that is fair and reasonable to all interested parties. I know it is not easy, but I think this is the right thing to do. I hope the House will accept this resolution and then we would proceed to wrap things up after that.

In light of this agreement, there will be no further votes today. All Senators will be notified when the next vote will occur in the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Before the majority leader leaves, we understand his role. He is the leader here, and it is not easy. I can't speak for everyone on this side, but I can speak for a few. We hope when we come back that we will come back with a fresh view as to what needs

to be done and hopefully we can get things done.

I ask the leader, is there some assurance—I guess that is the word—is there some certainty that the House will accept this? What has the leader learned?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I have spoken to the Speaker of the House. There have been staff contacts with the leadership on both sides of the aisle. It is my impression that the leadership on both sides will work for this to be accepted. We had some discussion about a different date, but the House felt very strongly that this date was preferred to the later one, and that is basically one of the reasons why we settled on this date. Hopefully, they will move quickly to accept this and then we will be able to go do our responsibilities in other areas.

I say also that while we will be home and will not be here for awhile, there has been further progress made on the Labor-HHS and Education appropriations bill. I understand there are only a few issues remaining. The staff will not be on vacation. Work will continue. It would be my hope that the areas of disagreement can be worked out and when we come back on November 14, we will have a vote or two and that is all, that we would be done with it. But hope springs eternal, and it doesn't always come true. That is what we are thinking about right now.

Mr. REID. I say to the leader, the President is excited about this. It is my understanding that he will do what is necessary in this instance. I repeat that when we come back here, I hope we can move this forward. With minor exceptions, the work done by Senator STEVENS and Senator BYRD and others on the Labor-HHS bill is really good work. I hope we can wrap it up very quickly.

Mr. LOTT. We have seen here today persistence does pay off. Yesterday very little was said about it, but a lot of credit goes to the members of the committee that produced the Water Resources Development Act under the chairmanship of BOB SMITH. There was some disagreements with the House, but they put their shoulder to the wheel and we passed that very important legislation last night. Today, thanks to a lot of good effort by Senator DASCHLE and Senator REID, and working with Senators on our side, we were able to move the FSC legislation, which we had not been able to get done earlier. So at this very moment, we are continuing to work to get agreement on the bankruptcy vote. I agree that this is an indication of why we probably should take a time-out. We didn't pass that cloture today because of absentees. I believe when we get everybody here, cloture will be invoked, and we will go forward with that important legislation.

Again, I thank the Senator for his good work as always.

I yield the floor.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 13

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 13, the Class Act. I further ask consent that the Senate proceed to its consideration, and an amendment at the desk submitted by Senator SESSIONS be agreed to, the bill be read the third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table. Further, I ask that the bill remain at the desk, and that when the Senate receives from the House H.R. 254, the Senate proceed to its consideration, all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of S. 13, as amended, be inserted in lieu thereof. I further ask that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and all previous action on S. 13 be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, a member of the minority has requested that on his behalf I object to this action, and based upon that request, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, Senator GRAHAM of Florida and I have been working on this bill. This legislation, in sum, provides that families that are saving for college tuition under prepaid college tuition plans, which are growing in popularity in America, the money they save and the interest that accrues on those plans not be taxable by the Federal Government. That is what this law would do if passed.

What we are doing in America today is we have a public policy to encourage families, through loan subsidies and other forms of incentives and delays in payments of interest, to borrow money to pay for college. But people who are saving money, even under State prepaid college tuition plans, are taxed on the money they save. This is a disincentive for the best way to pay for college tuition; that is, saving for college. Well over 40 States have these prepaid plans and the few States that don't are moving to develop them. It is working very well. The Federal tax policy ought to affirm what these States are doing and make this tax-free.

I just note that this is a middle class program. For example, 71 percent of the participating families in the Florida prepaid college program have annual incomes under \$50,000, and 25 percent have incomes of less than \$30,000; 81 percent of the contracts in Wyoming's savings plan have been purchased by families with annual incomes of less than \$34,000; 62 percent of the contracts in Pennsylvania have been purchased by families with annual incomes of less than \$35,000. The average monthly contribution to a family's college savings account in 1995 in Kentucky was \$43.

So what we are saying is let's have a good public policy. Let's encourage

people to save and make sure it is a wise thing for them to do financially. If we can achieve that, I think it would be good. As far as I understand, there is only one person in this who has an objection. I would be delighted to know who that was. Senator GRAHAM and I would like to talk to them to see if the problem they have can be worked out. I think it is good public policy. Both Vice President GORE and Governor Bush have made statements that clearly indicate their support for this kind of public policy. I am working with Senator DASCHLE, the Democratic leader, and I thank him for his assistance on this legislation, dealing with an issue he thought important to his State.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

BANKRUPTCY REFORM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I know my friend from Illinois wishes to speak at some length. First, I have a couple of comments. On the recently completed vote on cloture regarding bankruptcy, I think that is an example of why we need to follow Senate procedures the way we have for 200-plus years. Here is the bankruptcy bill brought up on a bill under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Relations Committee. Some Members who should have been weren't in that conference. I just think it is a very poor way to do business.

I think that we in the minority have been treated unfairly on a number of occasions this year. In an effort to show my displeasure—and that is a real soft, cool word because I feel more strongly than that—I voted against invoking cloture.

There comes a time when we have to work as legislators, and as Senators. If things don't change here, there are going to be other unfortunate procedures such as this, even though there is support for the substance of the legislation.

Also, Senator SCHUMER had a very strong point in this legislation. He and I cosponsored an amendment that is very simple. It said that these people—these very, in my opinion, evil people, who go to clinics where women come to get advice—some people may not like the advice they get in these clinics because some of the advice results in obtaining an abortion. But we live in a free country; people have the right to go where they want to go and talk about what they want. What these women are doing is lawful, not illegal. People spray chemicals into those facilities, and they can't get rid of the stench for up to 1 year, and many times they have to simply tear the insides of the facility down so it can be reused. In this legislation, Senator SCHUMER and I said if you do that, you cannot discharge that debt in bankruptcy as a result of the damages incurred, whether to the facilities or those women who use those facilities.

That provision should be in this legislation. For it not to be is wrong, and I understand that the chief advocate of the legislation—I don't know this to be a fact—Senator GRASSLEY, was willing to accept the provision. However, it was not in there. This is wrong and, as a matter of procedure and as a result of the substantive issue that I just talked about, I am satisfied with my vote. I have no second thoughts. I did the right thing. Unless there is a different method of approaching this bankruptcy reform, which I agree is badly needed, there are going to be roadblocks all along the way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

IN MEMORY OF MARLENE CALDWELL CARLS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Marlene Carls, a very special person who worked in my Springfield office for nearly 20 years. Marlene passed away on October 24.

My wife Loretta first introduced me to Marlene almost 20 years ago when I was running for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Loretta told me Marlene was an excellent worker and she hoped that she would join my campaign. So I sat down with Marlene and offered her a deal she could not refuse. I offered her a beat-up old desk, a run-down office, and not much pay, if she was willing to work for a candidate who had lost three straight elections. In a moment of weakness, she accepted. Marlene was part of our family from that day forward.

Marlene was born to be a caseworker and she was the best. She had a heart of gold. She cared so much for the people she was helping. She would take on immigration cases, foreign adoptions, and so many difficult and complicated matters. She would help constituents get the answers they needed. It wasn't just professional assistance to people in time of need; it was much more. Marlene Carls treated people asking for help as members of the family. She did her job so well that I used to get fan mail from constituents who could not thank me enough for the wonderful work that Marlene did.

With the immigration cases, we would continue to see the fruit of her work for many years. Marlene and I would go to naturalization ceremonies in Springfield twice a year. And as they would call out the name of a new citizen she would nudge me and say, "Boss"—she always called me "Boss"—"Boss, that's one of ours." It was the same kind of pride a mother has when her son or daughter crosses the stage at a graduation ceremony. She knew the people she had helped; she cared about them; she rejoiced in their success and happiness.

She showed the same caring for our military cases: mothers and fathers desperate to reach their sons and

daughters in uniform—to bring them home for an emergency—to get them out of a scrape—or just to learn if they were alive in a crisis.

Marlene learned the military lingo and reached the point where she could charm the stripes off a sergeant or the stars off a general. Many families in Illinois found peace of mind because of Marlene Carls' hard work.

And she took such delight in knowing that someone's life had been made a little better off because of her efforts.

Marlene, or "Mo" as we came to call her, was proud of her family. Her son Kelly Carls, her daughter Cathleen Stock, and her two grandchildren, Kayla Lynn and Julia Anne Stock, were the apples of her eye. I was pleased to watch their progress through her eyes.

Marlene also had so many friends. At her memorial service last Friday in Springfield, the chapel was packed with family, fellow staffers, and friends from other governmental offices. The group from the National Park Service where we have our senatorial office came out in uniform to be there for Marlene—clergy from many different religions and many ordinary people who had the good luck of asking Marlene for a helping hand.

Mo was active as a volunteer for the Alzheimer's Association and the American Cancer Society. In everything she did, people and a concern for people took first place. In our office, her care for others and wise advice led people to call her "Mama Mo."

A lesser known fact is that Marlene was an amazing writer. I remember she had written a piece in a contest and won a free trip to Hollywood. She was just so proud of that.

She had a long-time dream to visit Ireland. Over her desk was a picture of herself and "Tip" O'Neill. She really valued that photograph as a reminder of her Irish heritage. She and Kathy Anderson of my staff had the trip to Ireland planned. But they weren't able to make the journey because of Marlene's illness. At her wake, I closed with an Irish blessing from all of us to a wonderful person and great public servant.

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rain fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.

We will dearly miss Marlene Carls.

(The remarks of Mr. DURBIN pertaining to the introduction of S.J. Res. 56 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

STELLER SEA LION

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I have been criticized in the national media and many of the local media here about the Steller sea lion rider that is on the Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill. Riders are really