

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 126

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 2:15 p.m., the Senate proceed to H.J. Res. 126, the continuing resolution; further, that no amendments or motions be in order, and that there be 15 minutes equally divided between the chairman and the ranking member; that following that time the resolution be immediately read the third time, and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage of the resolution, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

SENATOR STROM THURMOND'S
98TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to add a few accolades to those that have already been expressed on the 98th birthday of our very distinguished and able colleague, Senator THURMOND.

Senator THURMOND and I have worked together in this Chamber for 42 years. I say this with a considerable amount of pleasure. I have always found Senator THURMOND to be straightforward, courageous—he is absolutely fearless—and always considerate of the viewpoints of others. We were here during the great civil rights debates of the 1960s. We have seen colleagues come and go. We have shared viewpoints on many of the great issues that have been debated upon this stage in the years that have gone by: The Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Panama Canal Treaties in the late 1970s—the many issues that have deeply affected our country and the people of our country.

While Senator THURMOND and I belong to different political parties, I think we have attempted to see through the fog of political debate, and we have attempted to speak and act in the best interests of the country as a whole. We have often risen above the political fray.

Senator THURMOND has always been very courteous to me. I can remember those years, now long ago, when Senator THURMOND lost his wife. He was a Democrat in those years, and I remember coming into the Senate Chamber on that morning after. Senator THURMOND sat there in the back row behind me that morning. I walked up to him, shook his hand, and told him of my sorrow at his loss.

I can remember when Senator THURMOND lost his daughter. I went to South Carolina to be with him in that time of trial and tribulation and sorrow. I saw the great outpouring of affection and love by his constituents in South Carolina.

I remember, too, the day in which there was a memorial service conducted for my grandson, Michael, who was tragically killed at the age of 17. I recall that at that memorial service there were two other Senators present—Senator Randolph, my colleague at that time in the Senate, and Senator THURMOND. My colleague today, Senator ROCKEFELLER, was there, but he was at that time the Governor of the State of West Virginia.

I shall never forget when STROM THURMOND came to my side at that moment of great sorrow when I gave up my grandson. Senator THURMOND has always been a Senator who sympathizes with the sorrows, the sadness, and the joys of his colleagues.

I went out here some distance from the Capitol a few years ago to attend the funeral service of a relative of one of my staff members. This relative was a black man. Who came to that funeral service? Me. I was there because it was a relative of one of my staff members. Senator THURMOND was there. He came there to show his sympathy and his concern to those bereaved people.

I marveled at his presence on that occasion. It made me wonder, how many funerals of persons of other races, of other parties, and of other creeds does this man attend around this city?

Let me just say today that it has also been not just a pleasure to serve with Senator THURMOND but it has been an honor. I salute him on this his 98th birthday.

Abraham lived to be 175. Isaac lived to be 180. Jacob lived to be 147. Joshua lived to be 110. Joseph lived to be 110. Moses lived to be 120. STROM THURMOND is only 98. I thank the good Lord that I can be here today to share with him this birthday of his.

Let me close by remembering a few lines, if I might, that were written by a poet.

Count your garden by the flowers,
Never by the leaves that fall.
Count your days by the sunny hours,
Not remembering clouds at all.
Count your nights by stars, not shadows.
Count your life by smiles, not tears.

On this beautiful December afternoon, Senator THURMOND:

Count your age by friends, not years.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I wish to thank the able Senator from West Virginia for his kind remarks. He is a man of character, a man of ability, a man of dedication, a man for whom all of us have high respect.

He has done a fine job here in the Senate. Although we are in different parties, we have so much in common. I have enjoyed being here with him, and I thank him for his great service to his State and to our Nation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I understand Senator HARKIN wishes to make a few remarks before the Senate recesses and before the meetings of the

two parties. I hope someone will indicate to Senator HARKIN that the floor is now available, if he would come at this time.

I understand he is on his way. If the Chair would just momentarily desist from using the gavel.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, will the Senator from West Virginia yield?

Mr. BYRD. Yes. I yield, if I have the floor, Mr. President.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to thank the Senator from West Virginia for his kind remarks in behalf of the birthday of our colleague from South Carolina, Senator THURMOND. Those were excellent remarks and tribute to a man with whom we have been proud to serve.

I would like to note, because the Senator is such a historian, that someone handed me a little piece of history which might be instructive to us in the days ahead.

The year was 1881, when a special session of the Senate convened on March 4, 1881. The session was called for the exclusive purpose of handling Cabinet and agency nominations for the new administration of President James Garfield. Republicans and Democrats were split evenly 37-37, with 2 independent Senators. Under normal circumstances, this short session should have lasted about 11 days. Due to intense partisanship, it resulted in deadlock. It ran for 11 weeks.

I hope that is a lesson to those of us who are trying to find a reasonable way to resolve our new challenge in the new Congress; that there are ways to do it so we can avoid that kind of deadlock and that kind of delay.

I see the Senator from Iowa present.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield, the two independent Senators on that occasion came from the State of Illinois. One was David Davis, a former Member of the Supreme Court. The other was William Mahone who hailed from the great State of Virginia, the mother of Presidents.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Senator. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

HEALTH AND EDUCATION
APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, over a month has passed since the Republican and Democratic negotiators came to agreement on the health and education appropriations bill for this year. As I said back then, the agreement was reached as a product of long and difficult bipartisan negotiations. Senator STEVENS, Senator BYRD, Senator SPECTER, and I, along with Congressmen BILL YOUNG, Congressman DAVID OBEY, and Congressman JOHN PORTER, worked for months to craft this agreement.

Chairman STEVENS and Chairman YOUNG had been charged by their leadership to lead these negotiations to closure so that we could pass this very

important bill. That is exactly what they did. At times when negotiations got heated, both sides hung in there, and in the end we came up with a compromise. Neither side liked everything that was in it, but it was a true compromise.

Less than 12 hours after we reached agreement, the faction within the House leadership led by Congressman DELAY and Congressman ARMEY decided to renege on our bipartisan conference. We were baffled by this sudden decision. We spent many late hours giving and taking, compromising, and negotiating. We came to an honorable, mutually satisfactory agreement.

As I said, no one was 100-percent happy with it. For example, I was extremely displeased that, at the insistence of Republicans, an important regulation protecting workers from workplace injuries—such as carpal-tunnel syndrome—was delayed yet again; despite the fact that last year's conference report contained explicit language, it would be delayed further.

Each year, over 600,000 American workers suffer disabling, work-related, musculoskeletal disorders that cost employers \$15 billion to \$20 billion a year in compensation. It may cost our economy as much as \$60 billion total a year.

I was especially disappointed in the delay because this ergonomic provision, as a nonpartisan proposal, initiated under Labor Secretary Elizabeth Dole in the Bush administration 9 years ago.

While I was displeased with certain aspects of the bill, I was satisfied that the bill contained important provisions to improve the education of our kids, provide health care for working women, and safeguards for Social Security and Medicare. Those provisions are far too important to be destroyed by last-minute partisan politics.

There is a 21-percent overall increase in education funding in this bill and 35-percent more funding for class size reduction. This means 12,000 new teachers across America will be making a difference for 648,000 children.

There is school modernization funding that will generate approximately \$9 billion for school repairs; \$250 million to increase accountability to turn around failing schools; a 40-percent increase in IDEA grants, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act grants, to States; the largest increase ever in Pell grants, so that college is affordable to working families and their kids; 70,000 more kids will get Head Start under this bill; an additional \$817 million for child care to serve 220,000 more children; another almost \$.5 billion for afterschool care for 850,000 kids.

In the health care area, there will be 1.4 million more patient visits to community health centers under this bill with an additional \$150 million; an additional \$18 million for breast and cervical cancer screening; an additional \$1.7 billion for NIH funding, the largest ever; home heating, an additional \$300

million for the Low-Income Heating Energy Assistance Program.

In the end, each side won some battles and each side lost, but we ended up with a fair and honorable agreement that was in the best interests of our Nation. That is what bipartisan compromise is all about.

Some are suggesting we just adopt a full year's continuing resolution. Not only would that be an abdication of our responsibility, but it would be exactly the wrong start to the next 2 years of a possibly evenly divided Senate and closely divided House. It would toss out one of the best examples of bipartisan cooperation that we have had this year, the bipartisan cooperation to enact the Labor-Health-Education appropriations bill.

Even worse, Mr. President, a full year's continuing resolution would be a step backwards for the education of our kids and making health care available to all Americans. It would wipe out all the gains I have just mentioned that are included in the bill. We would be kissing goodbye all these important advances in class size reduction, Head Start, breast and cervical cancer treatment, and many others.

Among other things, a full year's continuing resolution would cut NIH research by 47 percent, denying funding to 4,500 new research project grants this year. This chart indicates that.

If we pass a 1-year continuing resolution, here is what will happen: Under the current bill on which we had bipartisan agreement, we will be able to fund 9,500 new research projects at NIH. If we have a 1-year continuing resolution at last year's level, we will have only 5,000.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The hour has arrived for the party conferences to meet. The discussion on this issue will continue.

Mr. HARKIN. I ask unanimous consent to be recognized at 2:15 for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The unanimous consent divides time at that time, so I object.

Mr. HARKIN. I ask unanimous consent to be recognized at 2:15 to finish my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I have to object. We have divided the time at 2:15 on this issue.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:35 p.m., recessed until 2:17 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer [Mr. INHOFE].

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2415

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the

vote regarding the continuing resolution, the majority leader be recognized to offer a motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the cloture vote relative to the bankruptcy bill. I further ask that the motion to proceed on the motion to reconsider be agreed to and the Senate then proceed to 10 minutes equally divided between the majority leader and Senator WELLSTONE, and following that time the Senate proceed immediately to the motion to invoke cloture on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2415, the bankruptcy bill.

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

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the joint resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 126) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2001 and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will be 15 minutes equally divided.

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, this is a continuing resolution to give us until the close of business Thursday to complete the activities of this Congress. That is a large order, but I think it can be done if all Members of the House and Senate will cooperate.

We have in conference the major bill, the Health and Human Services bill, which we were prepared to act upon, but there were four basic differences in the conference that we could not resolve with the White House before the election. We are working on that. I can report to the Senate that our majority leader has just given us information about the meeting that he and other leaders had with the President last evening. I can tell you from my perspective, based on the report of the majority leader, I believe it is possible to finish by Thursday night if there is a will in both the House and Senate to do so.

It is my judgment—I am sure we are going to hear from the distinguished Senator from West Virginia that he shares this opinion—that the work of this Congress should be finished by this Congress. We put a lot of time and effort into these bills that are still pending in conference. I do believe it is possible for us to finish if all Members will cooperate with us.

The President has consented to making some reductions in the amounts proposed in these bills before the election. We are working on that with the staff of the House now in the appropriations process. I believe we will be able to report back sometime before the close of business today if the progress has led us to the point where we could file, or ask the House to file, a conference report tonight so it could be taken up by the House tomorrow.