

The legislative clerk read as follows: A bill (H.R. 1042) to prevent the elimination of certain reports.

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

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 1042) was read the third time and passed.

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS
AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2001

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 207, S. 1202.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1202) to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) to extend the authorization of appropriations for the Office of Government Ethics through fiscal year 2006.

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

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1202) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1202

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Office of Government Ethics Authorization Act of 2001”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 405 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by striking “1997 through 1999” and inserting “2002 through 2006”.

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 74, the continuing resolution just received from the House and at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 74) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read the third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 74) was read the third time and passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

Mrs. CARNAHAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak as in morning business for a period not to exceed 10 minutes.

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

THE ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

Mrs. CARNAHAN. Mr. President, yesterday’s action by the Senate to block the consideration of an economic stimulus package was unfortunate, untimely, and unnecessary. For the third time in 2 months, we missed an opportunity to bring desperately needed assistance to unemployed workers. We were also blocked from providing tax relief to businesses to encourage new investment, and we were not even permitted to consider a homeland security initiative to meet the safety needs of our homes and communities.

But the resumption of negotiations on an economic stimulus package between congressional leaders and the administration is a positive sign. I say “resumption of negotiations” because there were productive talks last month between administration officials and congressional leaders. These talks resulted in an agreement on the size of the stimulus package and consensus was beginning to build.

The Democratic and Republican leaders of the Budget Committee also agreed upon a set of guidelines to develop this legislation. They said it should be immediate, that it should provide a temporary stimulus. They also said it should focus on those who would be most likely to spend the money, and all that was left was to fill in the details.

Unfortunately, the sensible process was abandoned. The House of Representatives pushed through a tax bill that was not temporary, did not provide immediate stimulus, and did not put money into the hands of those most likely to spend it. The House bill was bloated well beyond the size of the package that had been agreed upon, and the permanent changes it would make to the Tax Code would return us to the days of deficit spending and high interest rates.

The bill passed by a slim margin on a partisan vote. The fact that the administration has endorsed this effort is a grave disappointment. Now that we are back at the negotiating table, it is time to return to the bipartisan Budget Committee principles. It should be stimulative, immediate, and temporary.

Nobody can doubt that our economy is in trouble. The employment rate jumped 5.4 percent in October; nearly 8 million workers are unemployed. We must rise above our differences and focus on the priorities that unite us.

Three things are of paramount importance. It is important that we get business growing again. There are a variety of good tax cut proposals for businesses on the table. They would cause immediate investment and growth without busting the budget. Identifying the best set of incentives should not be a difficult task. But it is also important that we invigorate consumer demand. Both sides of the aisle have proposed tax rebate checks to those Americans who did not receive a rebate earlier this year. We know that a \$300 rebate to low-income persons would create economic activity because this money will be spent to make ends meet. But it is also important to provide temporary assistance to those who have lost their jobs. As we have in previous recessions, Congress should extend unemployment benefits.

The claim that these benefits would be a disincentive to work is an insult to our workers. I have never met anyone who would rather receive a meager unemployment check than hold a job. But we need to provide unemployment benefits for a longer time than usual because the economy simply is not producing new jobs.

Republicans and Democrats agree that those who have lost their jobs should not also lose their health insurance. But there are many different ideas on the best way to provide health insurance to unemployed workers. Whether it is a tax credit or a subsidy, I am open to these ideas. The important thing is that we not add millions of workers to the ranks of the unemployed and uninsured.

We should also take care that our actions do not compound the fiscal woes of our State and local governments. Many States were already experiencing large budget deficits even before September 11. Since the attacks, there has been a sharp reduction in revenues. There has been an increased burden on essential Government services. If the Federal tax cuts we enact result in a reduction in State revenue, we must find a way to fill the gap for our States.

If we stay focused on our core priorities, we can come to an agreement. We can also be sure that we don’t bust the budget in the long run.

Economists have warned us that if we abandon fiscal discipline, we will force long-term interest rates to rise. If we push up home mortgage rates, then any other stimulus we provide will be futile.

Keeping interest rates low is especially important in my State. Missouri has one of the highest rates of home ownership in the country. Seventy-four percent of Missourians own their own homes, and they are counting on us to act responsibly. They are counting on our national leaders to step forward.

The President has shown bold leadership in the war against terrorism, and now they are counting on him to show bold leadership on the economic front as well.

A bipartisan agreement in the Senate is within reach. It is up to the President to bring all parties together for a sensible, balanced economic package that is good for America. That is the challenge. Americans are watching and waiting.

I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 5 minutes.

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

NATIONAL DAY OF RECONCILIATION

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I will not take the full period of time. I want to make an announcement and inform the Senate family of something. Last night, we cleared through the Senate a national day of reconciliation to take place in the Senate and the House on December 4.

When we come back, hopefully we will not be in session too much past that, but at least on December 4, there will be a gathering between the House and Senate, and hopefully members of the Cabinet, as a time to support one another and to reconcile.

Historically, this was done 100 years ago, in particular at this time of the year, between Thanksgiving and Christmas. We will try to see the minor differences that have separated us and see if we really cannot make amends with each other, and seek amends with our Creator, if there are things that separate us from Him as well. This is going to take place on December 4. It has passed the House and the Senate as a concurrent resolution. There is a group that is planning on working together to do this, along with the Chaplains of the two bodies.

I wanted to announce that to the Senate. Hopefully, there are people who will want to participate in this gathering. It is voluntary. It will be a private session. Nobody from outside the House, the Senate, or the administration, other than the two Chaplains, will participate. There will be no media present. It is a private, closed session. It will take place in the Rotunda.

It will take place between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on December 4. I hope people will mark it on their calendars. This can be a special time given the nature of what has happened in our country, this year in particular, with the events of September 11, with the anthrax scares, and with the plane that went down this week out of New York. We have had a lot of trial and trauma in this Nation. It has called upon us to unify and pull together. We need to continually do that.

This will be an effort for us to do just that—to reconcile with one another, to

reconcile with our Creator. I think it is an important model for us to show to the Nation. I hope people can participate in that as well.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

JAMES A. MCCLURE FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 220, S. 1459.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1459) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 550 West Fort Street in Boise, Idaho, as the "James A. McClure Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

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

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1459) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1459

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF JAMES A. MCCLURE FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 550 West Fort Street in Boise, Idaho, shall be known and designated as the "James A. McClure Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the James A. McClure Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

Mr. CRAPO. I thank the Chair.

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

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

WAYNE LYMAN MORSE UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 167, S. 1270.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1270) to designate the United States courthouse to be constructed at 8th Avenue and Mill Street, in Eugene, Oregon, as the "Wayne Lyman Morse United States Courthouse".

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 1270) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1270

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF WAYNE LYMAN MORSE UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

The United States courthouse to be constructed at 8th Avenue and Mill Street in Eugene, Oregon, shall be known and designated as the "Wayne Lyman Morse United States Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the Wayne Lyman Morse United States Courthouse.

AFGHAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN RELIEF ACT OF 2001

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 203, S. 1573.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1573) to authorize the provision of educational and health care assistance to the women and children of Afghanistan.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2158

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is an amendment proposed by Senator HUTCHISON of Texas, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for Mrs. HUTCHISON, proposes an amendment numbered 2158.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the reporting and funding provisions)

Beginning on page 4, strike line 19 and all that follows through page 5, line 16, and insert the following:

(2) Beginning 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and at least annually for the 2 years thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives describing the activities carried out under this Act and otherwise describing the condition and status of