

and Frank Torres, Legislative Counsel, Consumers Union, Washington, DC.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ben Clausen, a member of my staff, be granted the privilege of the floor during today's proceedings on the Equal Protection of Voting Rights Act.

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

ORDER FOR PRINTING OF H.R. 2646

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that H.R. 2646, the farm bill, be printed as passed by the Senate on Wednesday, February 13.

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

SUSPENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 258(a)(2) OF BALANCED BUDGET AND EMERGENCY DEFICIT CONTROL ACT OF 1985

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that previous consent with respect to S.J. Res. 31 be modified to provide that all time be yielded back; that the joint resolution be read the third time, and the Senate then vote on passage, without intervening action or debate.

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

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, once again, as was that case last November, the Senate today must consider a measure that comes to us as a result of the recession. S.J. Res. 31 is an automatic resolution, required to be introduced by the majority leader and considered by the Budget Committee and the Senate under expedited procedures.

The resolution is automatic when the Congressional Budget Office notifies the Congress of an economic slowdown.

On January 30, the Department of Commerce's advance report on real economic growth, showed the economy in the fourth quarter grew at an annual rate of 2 tenths of a percent. In the third quarter the economy shrank at an annual rate of 1.3 percent.

This report triggered the CBO notification of low-growth, and subsequently triggered the introduction of the resolution before us today.

The provision in the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985—sometimes referred to as the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act—that necessitated the reporting of this resolution, was simply that we did not want to be initiating major spending cuts in a time of recession.

I might add that the same section of that law that suspends spending cuts in the time of recessions also covers events of war.

S.J. Res. 31 was reported unfavorably from the Budget Committee yesterday.

The committee is required to report the resolution without amendment or be discharged without comment.

Again, I concurred with the chairman that the committee should express its disfavor with the Resolution, to send a signal to the full Senate to disapprove it. I ask the Senate to join the chairman, Budget Committee, and me on disapproving the resolution.

If this resolution were somehow to make it to the President for his signature, which he would not sign, it would effectively eliminate all fiscal discipline, all the enforcement tools we have here in the Congress all the way through September 2003.

I do not think we need to take such drastic action.

Having taken this position on a bipartisan basis, however, does not mean that we should not act to address both the economic slow down and the war on terrorism. We should and we must.

Having said that, the business sector was the focus of the economic weakness in the fourth quarter—as it has been throughout the recession.

Businesses reduced inventories at a very rapid pace and decreased investment in new plant and equipment. These factors were such a drag on economic growth that had it not been for a large increase in government purchases, GDP would have been negative in the fourth quarter.

However, the outlook for economic growth this year is becoming increasingly positive. This morning the Labor Department reported that initial claims for unemployment insurance dropped last week to the lowest level since August. Claims are down 26 percent since the peak in October. Businesses may not be adding workers and the unemployment rate may continue to rise a bit from here, but the pace of layoffs has slowed.

The inventory cycle, productivity, monetary policy, and fiscal policy all suggest better growth this year. Having decreased inventories by more than \$70 billion in 2001, business have more room to make purchases in the months ahead.

Remarkably, it seems no one told productivity that we had a recession. Productivity growth averaged more than 2 percent during the recession and it usually increases rapidly during recoveries.

With short-term interest rates at 1.75 percent, monetary policy is loose. Lower energy prices should contribute to growth this year. And, although I wish we could agree on additional policies to stimulate growth, the tax cut we enacted last year will boost the economy this year.

The tools of fiscal discipline must be contained so we can convey to the American public and the markets that we are keeping an eye not only on the current challenges we face, but also those longer term challenges.

We must maintain the provisions of the Budget Act that provide us with that future discipline, and we must

deal with both tax and spending legislation today while waiving the Budget Act on a case by case basis as needed.

I appreciate the chairman's willingness to approach this issue on a bipartisan basis and I join with him in recommending that the full Senate now reject this resolution when it votes later today. •

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 31) was rejected.

NATIONAL DONOR DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of S. Res. 210 submitted earlier today by Senators DURBIN, DEWINE, FRIST, KENNEDY, and others.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 210) designating February 14, 2002, as "National Donor Day."

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements thereon be printed in the RECORD with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 210) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 517

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask consent that the majority leader, after consultation with the Republican leader, may at any time turn to consideration of Calendar No. 65, S. 517, a bill to authorize funding for the Department of Energy to enhance its mission areas through technology transfer and partnerships.

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

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2002

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until tomorrow at 10 a.m., February 15; that following the prayer and the pledge, the

Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate resume consideration of the election reform bill.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there will be no rollcall votes tomorrow. The next rollcall votes will occur on Tuesday, February 26, at 10 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:52 p.m., adjourned until Friday, February 15, 2002, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate February 14, 2002:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

NANCY DORN, OF TEXAS, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.

THE ABOVE NOMINATION WAS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEE'S COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

THE JUDICIARY

DAVID L. BUNNING, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY.

JAMES E. GRITZNER, OF IOWA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA.

RICHARD J. LEON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.