from voting a straight party ticket in order to benefit GOP candidates. The mailer said, ''Notice to Voters. Do not vote using the Straight Party Button on your polling machine. This button cancels out any individual votes cast. In the past election, this button deprived many candidates of the votes they earned from people like you.'' In New Mexico voters are able to ''cast a straight party ticket and then vote for individual candidates of the other party,'' the Las Cruces Sun News reported. Denise Lamb of the Bureau of Elections said, ''its despicable that people would try to misinform voters to win an election.''

PENNSYLVANIA: GOP CONGRESSMAN ISSUED POLL WATCHER PACKET WITH WRONG INFORMATION.

According to a Lebanon Daily News Editorial, ''[Rep. George] Gekas, a Harrisburg Republican, has distributed among county officials and volunteers an 18-page manual that includes a section about 'challenging a voter.' That's right: Gekas volunteers aren't just going to challenge absentee ballots, but are going to try to block some people who show up at the polls from casting votes. Even more worrisome is the legal advice that 'challenging a voter' offers to GOP volunteers. The Gekas pamphlet contains some legal errors that may encourage Republican volunteers to lodge false and misleading protests against voters' rights. . . . The Gekas poll-watching strategy constitutes an embarrassment for the GOP. Republicans seem determined to frighten voters rather than competed in the arena of ideas. Gekas and his allies should disavow their planned attempt to discourage people from exercising the federal franchise. They would do better to welcome voters to the polls.''

MARYLAND: MAILER CIRCULATED TO AFRICAN-AMERICANS SPREAD FALSE VOTING INFORMATION

In Baltimore, MD as unsigned flier circulated in African-American neighborhoods spread false information aimed at suppressing voter turnout. The flier read: ''Urgent Notice. Come out to vote on November 6th. Before you come to vote make sure you pay your parking tickets, motor vehicle tickets, overdue rent and most important any warrants.''

Mr. President, the Republican actions during the last election are not in keeping with the legacy of Martin Luther King.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the period for morning business be extended until 4:30, with the time equally divided, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). Is there objection? If there is no objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have spoken to Senator BYRD and Senator DASCHLE, and Senator BYRD had a meeting with Senator STEVENS. I think we are at a point real quickly where the two leaders will come to the floor with Senator BYRD and Senator STEVENS and do something on the appropriations process. I would alert everybody, they should not plan any real long speeches—my friend said he has not—because I think we are going to be able to go, pretty soon, to the appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

COMMEMORATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S BIRTHDAY

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, ''What are you doing for others?'' It is in the spirit of this simple question that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., lived and died. Can you imagine if every person started each day with such a challenge? If before we thought about what clothes we would wear or what food we would eat or what meetings we had scheduled, we asked ourselves, ''What are you doing for others?''

These weren't just words to Dr. King. He walked the walk. And his walk often took place in neighborhoods where he was stoned by angry crowds, in jail cells where he was imprisoned, and in cities where he was despised. But every morning he woke up with the attitude that he was here to serve others, and he believed that everyone was capable of doing the same. He once said in a sermon that, ''Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve.'' The only requirements to serve, according to King, were ''. . . a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love . . .''.

For the 39 years that Dr. King graced this world, he led by example. And for the almost 35 years since his death, his legacy has continued to light a path to love, tolerance, reconciliation, and equality.

As well lit as he left that path, we still continue to stumble. That is why celebrating Dr. King's mission, even if just one day a year, is so necessary. We must remind ourselves how important it is for us to keep working toward a Nation that promotes opportunity for all while celebrating our unique differences.

Race relations in American have come a long way since almost 40 years ago when Dr. King penned his ''Letter from a Birmingham Jail'' after demonstrating against the segregation of restaurants. He wrote:

> We have waited for more than 340 years for our constitutional and God-given rights. Perhaps it is easy for those who have never felt the stinging darts of segregation to say, ''Wait.'' But when you have seen vicious mobs lynch your mothers and fathers at will and drown your sisters and brothers at whim * * * when you take a cross-country drive and find it necessary to sleep night after night in the uncomfortable corners of your automobile because no motel will accept you * * * when you are humiliated day in and day out by nagging signs reading ''white'' and ''colored,'' then you will understand why we find it difficult to wait.

A lot has changed since then, but in 2003, Dr. King's work is still not complete. Opportunity is not available to all, and we have not fully succeeded at respecting each other's differences.

As we honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we are reminded that he lived to love others and serve others as a pastor, a champion of equality, and a leader of freedom.

He lost his life while on a mission to leave his children, and all our children, a better world. We owe it to him to continue down that path to love, tolerance, reconciliation, and equality, for only when we reach the end will his work have been completed.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURNS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

A WATERSHED MOMENT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I came to the floor to discuss two issues—one, the matter of civil rights and, secondly, the important matter of economic stimulus. I indicated that today was a watershed moment for this administration. They had to make a choice and, as they made that choice, they would be making history.

Well, I am now told they have made the choice. They have decided to side with those opponents of civil rights and diversity in coming down in opposition to the Michigan case. I am troubled and saddened by the news. This administration, just a month ago, indicated they were going to demonstrate their commitment to civil rights, a commitment to diversity. They were going to show by their actions their intentions and their resolve to continue to provide meaningful opportunity to minorities in this country. Once again, today, the administration has said it is as clearly by their actions as anyone can that they will continue to side with those opposed to civil rights and opposed to diversity in this country.

I don't know how the Supreme Court ultimately will decide, but I do know this: Unless we take real action, unless we show real leadership, unless we show by our actions that indeed we want to see real opportunity and meaningful respect for diversity in this country, nothing will change.

On occasion after occasion, in spite of their rhetoric, the administration has shown by their actions an insensitivity to civil rights and diversity. They showed it by renominating Judge Pickering; they have shown it by their inaction and apparent opposition to

hate crimes legislation; they have shown it by cutting funding on programs that would provide meaningful opportunities, especially in education, especially in those areas where with additional investment we could help those who are disenfranchised and disadvantaged; they have shown it in their rulings in the Justice Department; they have shown it on virtually every single occasion when actions spoke louder than words. But of all of the times they have shown it, I don't know that they could have shown it any more unequivocally than they have shown it this afternoon.

So as I said, I am troubled, disheartened, and I am still looking for evidence that this administration truly means what it says; that this administration is willing to support by actions, rather than just by its rhetoric, meaningful change in civil rights and diversity in this country today.

THE OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I note that we are about ready to move to the omnibus appropriations bill. I know Senator BYRD is on the floor and we are awaiting Senator STEVENS. I must say that we have not yet seen the bill. So it will be very difficult for us to speak to the bill or amend the bill until we have had an opportunity to see it. This is an unusual situation in that we are taking a bill that really represents 11 appropriations bills to the floor in this manner. But I, as Senator BYRD, believe it is important for us to continue to get our work done and to move this process along. So I will not object, of course, to moving to the bill.

It is my understanding that deep cuts were made in a number of areas—in fact, across the board—to accommodate investments in election reform, drought assistance, and maybe other things. But we will not know until we see it. We will certainly have amendments, as I noted this morning. We will amend the bill in ways we have expressed earlier. Senator BYRD will have amendments on homeland defense. We will have amendments on education. We will certainly have amendments relating to other shortcomings in the dramatic cuts that will be reflected in this bill.

This cut across the board is doubly troubling to us. It may mean a significant cut in funds for veterans, for kids, for transportation. Before we come to any final conclusion, obviously, we need to see the details. It is my hope that we can begin the debate, look at the legislation, and, as we become more knowledgeable about the bill itself, offer amendments.

So I expect that could begin this afternoon, and I look forward to seeing the bill just as soon as our Republican friends can share it with us.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. COLLINS). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 2

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 2; further, that immediately upon the reporting of the bill Senator STEVENS be recognized in order to make his opening statement; I further ask unanimous consent that following the remarks of Senator STEVENS, Senator BYRD be recognized for an opening statement only; further, following those remarks, Senator STEVENS be recognized to offer an amendment; provided that the amendment be agreed to and be considered original text for the purpose of further amendment, with no points of order waived. I further ask unanimous consent that following any comments by Senator STEVENS, Senator BYRD be recognized in order to offer a first-degree amendment relating to homeland security; further, that when the Senate resumes consideration of the joint resolution tomorrow at 10 a.m., there be an additional 2 hours for debate, equally divided in the usual form, in relation to the pending Byrd amendment; provided further that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to a vote in relation to the Byrd amendment with no second-degree amendments in order to the amendment prior to the vote. I would finally ask unanimous consent that following the disposition of any additional amendments and the completion of any additional debate, the resolution be read a third time and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage of the resolution, provided further that following passage, the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate and that the conferees be the entire Appropriations Committee as proposed by the committee resolutions, with 15 Republicans and 14 Democratic members.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, Madam President, on just a couple of housekeeping matters, I ask the majority leader, it appears we will have no morning business in the morning?

Mr. FRIST. That is correct.

Mr. REID. And it appears there will be no further rollcall votes tonight; the next vote will be tomorrow at noon.

Mr. FRIST. That is the understanding that is in the unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the unanimous consent request? Without objection, it is so ordered.

MAJORITY PARTY APPOINTMENTS

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, let me also give my colleagues a very short update on progress made on the committee resolutions. As I said earlier, I think I said it last night and this morning, and I will say it once again, we are making progress. We are making progress, again, in a very cooperative, bipartisan way. I mentioned my previous conversations with the Democratic leader have set as our goal to have these committee resolutions passed as soon as possible, and everybody is working in good faith.

I am very hopeful that tonight—as they say, in 10 minutes, in 15, or in 30 minutes, but whenever final agreement is reached—I will come to the floor and I will be able to do that, and I expect to be able to do that by unanimous consent.

Again, it is confusing to people because we have the underlying committee resolutions. But by unanimous consent agreement, we are proceeding with this very important appropriations proposal and bill. I am glad we are addressing that. Again, we are making progress on that.

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, I would like to ask a question of either the manager of the bill or the majority leader.

According to the agreement, an up-or-down vote did not seem to be agreed to on the amendment.

Mr. STEVENS. No. We have agreed to have an up-or-down vote on the amendment.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Senator.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res 2) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Alaska is recognized.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, because of the circumstances, I really don't have a prepared statement. I wish to outline for the Senate how we intend to proceed. We have been working for some time trying to obtain a process by which we could proceed to act on the 11 appropriations bills for the fiscal year 2003 which were not completed by the end of the last Congress.

I commend my good friend from West Virginia and his staff for assistance in working with us to work out this procedure. These bills that will soon be included in an omnibus amendment to