

noon on Monday, June 2, 2003, or at such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as we go into the Memorial Day recess, I thought it might be appropriate to take a few moments and look back at the accomplishments of the Congress in which we currently find ourselves. We know that last year the Senate did not pass 11 of the 13 appropriation bills, and never passed a budget. It was, in fact, the first time the budget did not pass since the Budget Act passed back in 1974.

We have now completed 5 months of the 108th Congress, a Senate narrowly controlled, 51–49, by the Republican Party—certainly not a huge margin from which to function. But, nevertheless, it has been an extraordinarily productive 5 months.

Just to run down the list: Extension of unemployment benefits to those who need them, not once but twice, the second time being today. We did, back in January, pass 11 appropriation bills that were never passed for the previous year—in fact, the year in which we are currently operating. We funded Operation Iraqi Freedom, which allowed our military to have the resources to win, as the President put it, the battle for Iraq, the battle in the larger war on terrorism. We preserved our military strength by passing a Department of Defense authorization bill just this week in the Senate. We initiated the protection of our homeland by confirming the nomination of the first Secretary of the new Department of Homeland Security.

As I made reference a few moments ago, we passed a budget which distinguishes this Senate from the previous one. We have enacted the President's plan to create jobs and stimulate the economy. We just passed that today and it is on the way to the President for signature. I think the Washington Post depicted it as the third largest tax

relief package in history. If that is accurate, that sounds perfectly good to me.

We have also, in the first 5 months this year, banned the horrific practice of partial-birth abortion. It passed the Senate by a very large margin.

We passed the President's faith-based initiative. We funded the effort to eradicate the scourge of global AIDS, which gives the President the opportunity to go to the G–8 meeting next week and challenge our European allies to do likewise so that we all work collectively to deal with this plague which has affected all of the world, but in particular the continent of Africa.

To guard our children against abduction and exploitation, we passed the PROTECT Act in the first 5 months of this year. We have improved safeguards from foreign terrorists by enacting the FISA bill. We engaged in our second historic NATO expansion to include the remaining members of the Warsaw Pact which were not in the first tranche that came in—Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic, six more countries on top of the original three to further expand NATO to complete virtually the entire area that used to make up the Warsaw Pact.

We passed the significant arms reduction treaty with our former enemy turned ally, the Russians.

We are bridging the digital divide by providing needed funds to historically black colleges.

We affirmed the constitutionality of the use of the term “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance.

We awarded a Congressional Gold Medal to Prime Minister Tony Blair, who richly deserved it.

And we provided tax equity to the men and women in our Nation's Armed Forces.

This has been an extraordinarily productive first five months of the 108th Congress.

Particularly to be commended is our leader BILL FRIST, who stepped into a new job at the beginning of this Congress, and has done an extraordinary job of holding us together and advancing the ball. Those are the two principal responsibilities of the majority leader—holding together at least his own side, if he can, and advancing the ball.

We have been able to reach out to the other side and have critical Democratic support when that was necessary in order to achieve success.

So as we go into the Memorial Day recess, I think we can all feel proud that we have accomplished a great deal for our constituents and made this a better country in many clearly discernible ways.

Having recounted those accomplishments of the 108th Congress, 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. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in a few moments we will be completing our work for today—indeed for the week—after what has been a productive process in completing a lot of legislation today with a number of votes, but following really about 2 or 3 months of very consistent, steady progress, as was just outlined by the assistant majority leader a few moments ago.

It caused me, as I listened to my distinguished colleague from Kentucky, to think back to 5 months ago, when we began the 108th Congress, and what we were thinking then as we projected forward what we hoped to accomplish.

I recall at that time, on the floor, committing this body, working together in a bipartisan way, to achieve results for the American people—the type of results that would push America forward, focusing on action, on getting things done. We said that this Congress would be a Congress defined by action, defined by accomplishment, and I believe that indeed we have kept that pledge.

Whether working to create jobs, increasing our Nation's economic growth, fighting global terror, protecting our homeland and making our homeland more secure, or helping to stem the spread of HIV/AIDS, this Congress has been quietly, steadily, and consistently getting the job done for the American people.

As my colleagues leave today to return to their homes across the country and spend this Memorial Day holiday with their friends and families, I do want to take this opportunity, in these final moments, to thank them for their patience and their hard work. They have been extremely productive. They have been prolific.

First and foremost, we have enacted measures to stoke America's great economic engine and to create new jobs for our workers. The 11 appropriations bills left over from last year we passed in 1 omnibus appropriations bill, finishing the work left unfinished from the last Congress.

We passed the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. And we passed that budget in near record time. Indeed, it was only the fourth time in the history of our budgeting process that we actually met the statutory deadline.

Also, today we approved President Bush's jobs and growth plan, a plan which will put more money in the pockets of everybody listening right now, and more money in the pockets of all American families, thereby creating thousands and thousands of new jobs.

It is progress. It shows action. It shows we are delivering to the American people. The package we passed just a few hours ago includes the third-largest tax cut in our Nation's history. I believe it will help turbocharge the economy because 60 percent of the \$350 billion stimulus package will hit home this year and next year, in this timeframe, over the next 18 months.

Working with President Bush, we have strived to make our homeland more secure and fight the global war against terror. In addition to the funds approved in the budget, the \$80 billion supplemental appropriations bill, passed in April, not only helped pay for the cost of the Iraq campaign, but it provided funds to protect our own borders as well.

In what may someday, I believe, be considered our most far-reaching initiative, Congress has approved—and the President, next Tuesday, will sign—a 5-year, \$15 billion commitment to combat the global spread of that deadly HIV/AIDS virus—a virus we knew nothing about 25 years ago, a virus that represents, in the pandemic that has ensued, the greatest public health challenge of our time, killing more than 23 million people, infecting more than 40 million people alive today, ultimately killing, in all likelihood—even if we discovered a vaccine today—another 60 million people over the next 20 to 30 years.

But now, because of the action of this body, following the leadership of the President of the United States, working hand in hand with the House of Representatives, America is now—and proudly so—the global leader in HIV/AIDS funding and has brought the lamp of hope to millions of people threatened by this devastating disease.

I have been privileged, as a physician, to be able to perform medical mission work in various places around the world, but specifically in Africa, and I can tell you how desperately—how desperately—needed is this leadership, is this funding. This legislation is a manifestation of the caring spirit—that spirit of compassion—that spirit of caring and compassion on behalf of the United States of America. It shows our commitment to the less fortunate in the world and that we are, indeed, a nation of moral courage.

In foreign policy, we supported the Moscow Treaty, which calls for the most dramatic reduction of nuclear weapons between Russia and America in history. Under the terms of this treaty, the number of nuclear weapons will be lower than at any point since 1954.

Also in foreign policy, we supported the expansion of NATO, bringing seven new democracies into the alliance: Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

At home, we have not only acted to spur the economy to create jobs but we have looked after those who do not have a job but who are looking for a job. Today, again, just a few hours ago, we once again extended the unemployment insurance to ensure that families will have the economic support they need while they continue to look for a job.

On issues here at home, we voted to end that abhorrent practice of partial-birth abortion. We approved the CARE Act to encourage charitable giving to charitable and nonprofit organizations.

These are just a few of the many accomplishments of this Congress. I could go on: AMBER Alert, air cargo security, a national “Do Not Call” list to stymie unwanted phone solicitors, military tax relief—and the list continues.

I mention all this because as we focus on our day-to-day activities, it is rare that we look at that large picture from 30,000 feet as to what we have accomplished. And, indeed, we have done much. It has been a productive 5 months. It has not always been a smooth road, but in a closely divided Senate few paths are easy. It takes working in a bipartisan way.

Before I close, I do want to say, as part of a new leadership team on the Republican side of the aisle, it has been extremely important for me to have developed a positive working relationship with the other side of the aisle, both in terms of leadership and really throughout the Senate. I do want to thank the corresponding leaders on the other side of the aisle for working with me in a bipartisan way as we have set out this agenda and as, indeed, we have completed the agenda that has been set out.

I do hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle enjoy the break and come back from their time refreshed because we have a lot of work to do. On the top of that list will be to bring our Medicare Program up to date so we can include prescription drugs as part of the armamentarium for health care delivery and health care security for our seniors. That is going to require bipartisan cooperation if we are truly to accomplish what I know we will accomplish, what we can accomplish, and what our seniors deserve; that is, a strengthening and improvement of our Medicare Program.

We will do that the month we come back. It will be hard work, but in the end I know we can approve a plan to improve the current system, to strengthen it, to guarantee all seniors access to prescription drugs in a plan that can best meet their health care needs.

I do want to thank my own Republican leadership team. We heard a few moments ago from my colleague, the assistant majority leader, our whip, Senator MCCONNELL. Our working relationship has been such that it excites me, as we look to the future, again, having worked hand in hand to address these many issues in the past.

As our colleagues go home, I know they will all be paying tribute to the men and women who have returned to their own communities after representing the best that we have in the United States of America, as they have fought for freedom and democracy—those freedoms that we are able to enjoy each and every day.

We have done much, but we have much to do.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today's Executive Calendar: Calendar Nos. 134, 176, 177, 206 through 217, and nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Army, Foreign Service, Marine Corps, and Navy.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Karen Johnson, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education.

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Michael Schwartz, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Railroad Retirement Board for a term expiring August 28, 2007.

NATIONAL MUSEUM SERVICES BOARD

John E. Buchanan, Jr., of Oregon, to be a Member of the National Museum Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2006.

ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Jerry L. Sinn

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Steven W. Boutelle

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Anthony R. Jones

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. John R. Vines

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Emile P. Bataille

The following named officer for appointment as the Chief of Chaplains, United