

on charges of trespass are scheduled to commence on July 9, 2007. Two members of the Senator's staff who had conversations with the defendant protestors during the charged events have been subpoenaed by the prosecution and the defense. Senator GRASSLEY would like to cooperate by providing testimony from these two members of his staff. This resolution would authorize those staff members to testify in connection with this action, with representation by the Senate Legal Counsel.

I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 263) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 213

Whereas, in the cases of State of Iowa v. Chester Guinn (SMAC288541), Brian David Terrell (SMAC288544), Dixie Jenness Webb (SMAC288545), Kathleen McQuillen (SMAC288543), and Elton Lloyd Davis (SMAC288539), pending in Iowa District Court for Polk County in Des Moines, Iowa, testimony has been requested from Robert Renaud and Janice Goode, employees in the office of Senator Chuck Grassley;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it Resolved that Robert Renaud and Janice Goode, are authorized to testify in the cases of State of Iowa v. Chester Guinn, Brian David Terrell, Dixie Jenness Webb, Kathleen McQuillen, and Elton Lloyd Davis, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Robert Renaud and Janice Goode in the actions referenced in section one of this resolution.

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MEETING THE SENATE SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it wasn't too many years ago that sessions of the Senate were much shorter than they are now. During the summertime, the months of July and August, people went home because it was so hot. They simply couldn't handle the heat in this building and this town. But that has changed now with air-conditioning.

We still traditionally take August as our break. We do it for good reason. There are a lot of things we have to do to catch up on work at home. Senators have to travel throughout their States to catch up on things. The State of Nevada, for example, is the seventh largest State area-wise in the country. Seventy percent of the people live in Las Vegas; 20 percent live in Reno. But the other 10 percent are entitled to representation in the Senate, as are the two metropolitan areas. In addition, we have important obligations around the world. August is set aside as a time when Members travel around the world to check assets our country has and obligations through treaties and other things.

The reason I mention that is we have a lot of work to do. This is a work period of 4 short weeks, and we hope it is 4 short weeks. It wasn't but a month ago when Members of this body and the House were criticizing the Iraqi Parliament for taking their summer vacation because they hadn't done the work they were supposed to do. The American people are looking at us—not the Iraqi Parliament, the American Congress—to make sure we also do our work. We have a schedule during this 4-week work period we have to meet. If we don't do that, the August recess period is going to be shorter. Everyone should understand that. I know I have come to the floor earlier in the year talking about the need for us to do different things, and it has worked out very well. We have worked only one weekend. We have spent a few nights but not too many because Members have, on most occasions—when it comes time to finish our work before a work period ends, we are able to complete the work. I hope that will continue. We have a lot to do.

I think this could be one of the most, if not the most, important work periods of the year. It was reported in the press today that we, the majority, have filed 42 cloture motions this year already. Why? Because everything we have had to do—motions to proceed, basically everything—the Republicans have had us go that route procedurally to try to invoke cloture to move forward. We have not always been successful, but most of the time we have because it was simply stalling when it came right down to it. On many occasions, the Republicans voted with us, but they still got their 30 hours to slow things down.

In spite of that, we have been able to accomplish a lot. We, of course, passed an increase in the minimum wage for the first time in 10 years. As a result of the supplemental appropriations bill the President gave us, we were forced into that legislation, not only the minimum wage bill but disaster relief which is 3 years overdue for ranchers and farmers. We were able to, for the first time over the President's objections, get extra money for homeland security. We got a billion dollars there. We were able to finally get money for

the gulf, \$7 billion. The President had gone there 22 times, but the money had never been forthcoming. We were able, in the supplemental appropriations bill, to force that in. We were also able this year to pass a budget, a good budget. We think it will set the pattern for what needs to be done this year.

We have had other accomplishments. We also have things we have to do. That is why this work period is so important. The Defense authorization bill is one thing. This gives us a chance to support our troops with a readiness amendment, which will be the first amendment up, which requires that active-duty troops have at least the same amount of time at home as the length of their previous tour overseas. This will also be our chance to force responsible action in Iraq that the President up to this point has refused.

We have had, during the week we have been gone, a number of Republicans of good will who have spoken out for the need to change policy in Iraq. I appreciate very much their stepping forward, as do the American people, Democrats and Republicans.

Second, we are going to do everything we can during this work period to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program which provides health insurance to 6 million children. SCHIP must be reauthorized before it expires. I hope we can all agree to this as important to keep the children healthy. We are also going to turn to the Higher Education Access Act, a bill that will help more Americans afford college by addressing the alarming rise in tuition costs. It could be and will be the most significant change in higher education since the GI Bill of Rights. It is going to change programs. It is going to take moneys used to pay people who provide these loans, who are getting, in the minds of many, outrageous profits from the money they give to young people to go to school, take that and put it into something that will really educate children.

Fourth, we are going to tackle appropriations bills. The first bill I want to do is Homeland Security. This bill strengthens airport, seaport, and water security, supports our first responders, and plugs security gaps that have been ignored for far too long.

Finally, we are going to send the 9/11 and ethics bills to conference. As I said during the last day we were here, no longer am I going to come here and hope that the good will of the Republicans will allow us to go to conference. We are going to finish these bills. If it means I have to file cloture to get conferences, that is what we will do. It is too bad because on the ethics bill, it is important that we do this. It is so important that we do ethics and lobbying reform to address the culture of corruption. This legislation passed the House and the Senate with minor differences. We should complete them. We almost got there the last week we were here, but at the last minute somebody

stepped in and wanted to stop us from doing this—always some diversionary tactic. As to 9/11, we got another letter today from the 9/11 families saying do something about this.

Here is our work schedule. Let's make sure everybody understands what we need to complete during this work period: Defense authorization; we are going to work hard at SCHIP; we are going to finish the conference reports on 9/11 and ethics and lobbying reform. We are also going to do the Defense authorization bill, as I talked about. We are going to do the reconciliation on the Higher Education Access Act, and we are going to do an appropriations bill or more, if we can. I repeat: It is time that we start legislating for the American people. The minority has certainly proven that they can slow things down here, and 42 times we have had to file cloture. I hope we don't have to continue doing that. We will address the issues I have talked about before we end the work period and break for the August recess.

The recess is important. I repeat: It gives Members the opportunity to travel home and abroad, which is so important. It widens our understanding of the issues we face. Two of our colleagues, for example, both former members of the military, Senators MCCAIN and REED, traveled to Iraq during this Fourth of July work period. They will have a lot to report. I have already met with JACK REED, and I have had a wonderful conversation with him. I don't think there is anyone in the Senate who has traveled there more than he has. I am quite sure that is true. The August recess is also a time to meet with constituents. That is also important.

We are sent here for one reason above all others; that is, to legislate. That is what we must do. So I say as respectfully as I can to my friends, Democrats and Republicans, who are Senators, you need to keep your August travel plans flexible. I believe we can address each of these issues I have mentioned in the next 4 weeks and complete our work. The conference reports could go very quickly, but it is not just up to me, as we move this calendar along at a pace that allows for fair debate but not obstruction. In recent weeks, we have seen some of our Republican colleagues filibuster even issues that it appears they support, which is hard to comprehend, but that is what we have seen. That is their right, but I don't think it is good for the country, and we are simply going to do what we can to move this body along so we can accomplish passage of legislation.

President Wilson said on one occasion:

The commands of democracy are as imperative as its privileges and opportunities are wide and generous. Its compulsion is upon us.

So, Mr. President, the compulsion to get the job done is upon us now, and I look forward to a very successful work period. We are going to have to put in

some long hours, but certainly that should not be a hindrance to our work.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

#### ADVANCING THE ISSUES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I listened with interest to my good friend, the majority leader. Let me make a few random observations before making some remarks about the Defense authorization bill.

He indicated there have been 42 cloture motions filed. That is quite a lot, no question about it. The reason that was necessary, of course, is because the majority was trying to truncate the legislative process, which, in the Senate, unlike the House, gives the minority considerable opportunity to offer amendments.

Typically, the way these things are done is to be worked out. Cloture motions do not always produce the desired result of the majority, and we look forward to having fewer cloture motions, not more, as a better way to actually pass more legislation.

With regard to the August recess, I certainly would be prepared to stay here and work. I recall the majority leader and I were here the last time that was tried in 1994, when we stayed here 2 weeks into the August recess, to try to pass the national health care plan supported by then-President Clinton and his First Lady, HILLARY CLINTON. After 2 weeks of frustration, Senator Mitchell gave up and the recess began. Sometimes that kind of device would be helpful; other times it may not be.

I worry a good bit about the fact we have not done any appropriations bills yet. The basic work of the Government is to fund the agencies of Government. We do it through 13 appropriations bills. We have not passed any yet. I do worry we will end up with a process that could lead us in the direction we went last year under my party and in 2002 when the Democrats were in the majority, which led to kind of a total meltdown of the appropriations process. I hope that can be avoided. There will be a lot of cooperation on this side of the aisle to prevent that from happening. But we do need to schedule the bills and actually pass them if we are going to have a chance to have anywhere near a normal appropriations process.

With regard to the 9/11 bill, as my good friend the majority leader knows, we were prepared to go to conference on that bill the Friday before the recess. No request to go to conference was actually propounded on that day. I think if we can have our staffs exchange some language, there is no good reason why we cannot go to conference on the 9/11 bill very shortly, maybe even including today.

With regard to the lobbying bill, it was my intention to go to conference on the lobbying bill. We had an objection on this side of the aisle. The objector came over here, made the objection, and that is the way the Senate works. There is still strong support for that bill on this side of the aisle. It was the first bill the majority leader brought up, with my concurrence and cooperation. We passed it with only two dissenting votes, and I am very optimistic we can get that to conference as well.

So there will be a lot of cooperation on this side of the aisle to try to advance the issues the majority leader believes we ought to address.

#### DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. McCONNELL. With that, Mr. President, let me make some observations about the Defense authorization bill.

What Republicans would like to see is an open and comprehensive debate. We know this debate is going to include a discussion of our policy in Iraq. We welcome that too. There are a variety of different proposals on both sides of the aisle about how we ought to go forward on that most important issue. Nobody has any doubt that is the No. 1 issue in this country, and we are certainly prepared to offer our suggestions, as well as to react to the Democratic suggestions about where we should go from here.

But a couple of words of caution are in order as we proceed. Everyone should know from the outset that Republicans will expect and insist on the freedom to improve this bill with our own amendments. We will be offering them and expect to have them voted on, as well as Democratic amendments.

Democrats have continually tried to block our efforts at improving legislation earlier in this session, as evidenced by the record pace of cloture motions we have been discussing on the floor that have been filed since January. I know there has been an effort to attempt to paint this record-setting pace of cloture motions as a reaction against alleged Republican intransigence, but, frankly, that is simply not the case. It is an effort to try to truncate the legislative process in such a way that works to the disadvantage of the minority.

The Senate has always been a place of cooperation. Most of us on both sides have been in the majority and minority recently. We know the different proposals that tend to please one and inhibit the other. The Senate is a ponderous place on purpose. It is exactly what Washington and the Founders predicted.

Republicans have insisted on our right to improve everything from ethics reform to the minimum wage bill this year. We have improved, we believe, everything we have touched, and we will continue to insist on our rights to do that.