

that all debate time be equally divided and controlled in the usual form; that Senator DEMINT be recognized for up to 1 hour to speak with respect to any of his pending germane amendments; that with respect to the Vitter amendment No. 3896 and a first-degree germane amendment from the majority on the subject matter of Vitter, that debate time on these two amendments be limited to 60 minutes each; that the Smith amendment No. 3897 be limited to 20 minutes of debate; that no further amendments be in order, and that upon the use of time with respect to the DeMint amendments, the Senate then proceed to vote in relation to the amendments; that the vote sequence occur in the order in which the amendments are listed in this agreement except the majority amendment with respect to the Vitter amendment would occur first; that there be 2 minutes of debate prior to each vote; further, that upon the disposition of all pending amendments, the substitute, as amended be agreed to, and the bill be read a third time, and the Senate then proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the bill; that if cloture is invoked, all postclosure time be yielded back, and without further intervening action or debate, the Indian Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1328, the House companion, and the Senate then proceed to its consideration; that all after the enacting clause be stricken, and the text of S. 1200, as amended, be inserted in lieu thereof; that the bill be advanced to third reading, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that upon passage of H.R. 1328, S. 1200 be returned to the calendar; further, that the mandatory quorum be waived; provided further that if cloture is not invoked, this agreement is null and void.

I would further inform all Members that debate time utilized will be utilized on Monday. We will have three votes on Monday beginning at 5:30, and we will have the other two votes Tuesday morning. Senator KYL asked for this. I think it is reasonable.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, let me say that I send my appreciation to Chairman DORGAN and Ranking Member MURKOWSKI. They worked very hard. Of course, I want to express my appreciation to Senator KYL who has been involved in our getting to this point. He has been a big help to our getting here. It has been a difficult road.

It is a bill that is long overdue but certainly is necessary to do. I appreciate everyone's cooperation. I am going to confer briefly, in a matter of minutes, with the distinguished Republican leader to determine if there is any reason for us to be in session tomorrow. That announcement will be made very quickly.

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.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

CELEBRATING PRESIDENT'S DAY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, on Monday, February 18, the United States will celebrate President's Day. President's Day takes on a particular significance this year, as the Nation is actively involved in the selection process for a new President. It is heartening to see the level of interest and participation in all of the Presidential campaign events and in the primaries and caucuses. It is a sign that Americans' faith in the basic processes of their Government is still strong, even as a recent poll indicates that the public holds a very low opinion of the current President and of Congress. In a 1789 letter to Richard Price, Thomas Jefferson wrote that, "Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own Government. Whenever things get so far wrong as to attract their notice, they may be relied upon to set them to rights." I believe we are witnessing the truth of Thomas Jefferson's observation.

As early as 1796, Americans were observing the birthday of our first, and still one of our greatest, Presidents, George Washington. According to various old style calendars, George Washington was born on either February 11 or February 22, 1732. On whichever date people preferred, President Washington's birthday was feted with "Birthnight Balls," speeches, and receptions. Here in the Senate, one of our most enduring traditions is the annual reading of Washington's 1796 Farewell Address by a current Member of the Senate. This practice began in 1862, and became an annual event in 1893. Beginning in 1900, the Senator who read the address then signed his or her name and perhaps wrote a brief remark in a book maintained by the Secretary of the Senate. For the historically curious, both Washington's Farewell Address and a selection of the remarks from the book can be found on the Senate's Web site (www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/generic/FarewellAddressBook.htm).

After the 1865 assassination of President Lincoln, another revered President who was also born in February, similar memorial observances sprang

up around the Nation. In 1865, both Houses of Congress gathered for a memorial address. President Lincoln's birthday became a legal holiday in several States, although it did not become a Federal holiday like President Washington's. However, in 1968, legislation was enacted to simplify the Federal holiday schedule. As a result, Washington's birthday observance was moved to the third Monday in February, regardless of whether or not that day was February 22. Officially, this holiday is still known as Washington's Birthday, but it has become popularly known as President's Day to honor both Washington and Lincoln, as well as all who have served as President.

Why were President Washington and President Lincoln so widely and spontaneously revered by the public, even in the immediate aftermath of their deaths, before time had a chance to burnish their memories and fade their less enabling characteristics? Certainly, the great events that were shaped for the better by their decisions were a major factor. Both George Washington and Abraham Lincoln made a name for themselves as inspiring leaders of men and the Nation during pivotal wars in our Nation's history. Both demonstrated true patriotism, a deep love of the Nation that was the prism through which they viewed all problems and made all decisions. Both men selflessly sacrificed their own personal lives to serve the Nation throughout their lives.

In honor of President's Day, I urge everyone to listen to or read Washington's Farewell Address and apply its wisdom to the Nation's current situation and to the decision each of us will make in November. A collaborative effort between George Washington and the authors of *The Federalist Papers*, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay, Henry Cabot Lodge wrote of the Farewell Address that ". . . no man ever left a nobler political testament." In it, Washington supported the Federal Government as "a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence . . ." warned against a party system that ". . . serves to . . . agitate the Community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms . . ." and ". . . kindles the animosity of one . . . against another." He stressed the importance of religion and morality, famously warned against the entanglements of permanent foreign alliances, cautioned against an over-powerful military establishment as ". . . inauspicious to liberty . . ." and urged the Nation to ". . . cherish public credit . . ." by using it as little as possible. Only then could the Nation avoid the accumulation of debt, because ". . . towards the payments of debts there must be Revenue, that to have Revenue there must be taxes; that no taxes can be devised, which are not . . . inconvenient and unpleasant." We cannot have our cake and eat it, too—tax cuts and deficit spending cannot occur simultaneously if the economy is to remain sound over the long run.

Washington's experience and wisdom may serve us well as the true litmus test to apply to our prospective 44th President. Mr. President, I close with a poem by the author of *The Life of Abraham Lincoln*, Josiah Gilbert Holland (1819–1881) called "God, Give Us Men!" Penned before women had won the right to vote, it nonetheless resonates today and applies to anyone, man or woman, who would lead our Nation.

GOD, GIVE US MEN!

God, give us men! A time like this demands Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands;
Men whom the lust of office does not kill;
Men whom the spoils of office can not buy;
Men who possess opinions and a will;
Men who have honor; men who will not lie;
Men who can stand before a demagogue
And damn his treacherous flatteries without winking!
Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog
In public duty, and in private thinking;
For while the rabble, with their thumb-worn creeds,
Their large professions and their little deeds,
Mingle in selfish strife, lo! Freedom weeps,
Wrong rules the land and waiting Justice sleeps.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANDERS). The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I never cease to be amazed at our senior colleague, Senator BYRD of West Virginia, for the great oratorical skills he has, the vast memory store he carries, of which we have just had an example that from memory he can recite poems and he can recite historical dates. He is such an inspiration to the rest of the Senators, and he is, indeed, the pillar upon which this Senate rests. Once again, we have been treated to the oratory of the great Senator from the State of West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I am happy to yield to the distinguished Senator.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I deeply thank the able and distinguished Senator from the State of Florida in which I once lived. I thank him. I cherish his friendship. May he ever be one for whom the motto "E pluribus unum" will dwell in his heart.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, that is about the best admonition this Senator could have. E pluribus unum—out of many, one. I am grateful to the Senator from West Virginia for reminding not only me but the whole Senate of that duty, that responsibility, that obligation we all have.

FARC HOSTAGE TAKING

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, it has been 5 years since four Americans disappeared in the jungles of Colombia while helping that country's Government fight its war against narcoterrorism. Five years ago yesterday, a single-engine plane carrying these Americans lost engine power and crashed into the jungle. One of those Americans and a Colombian colleague

were brutally executed by the terrorist group the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, commonly known as FARC. The remaining three—Keith Stansell, Thomas Howes, and Goncalves—were taken hostage by the FARC and have since languished in the Colombian jungle prison, where they are held despite repeated appeals for their freedom.

Fortunately, we think, through recent news crews, that those Americans are still alive. They are being held somewhere in an undisclosed location in the jungle along with untold numbers of other hostages. These men were involved in our decades-long struggle against drugs that are polluting our children's minds and the lawlessness in Colombia. Their sacrifice and those of their families—and most of those families live in Florida—is all too real. We can't forget them. That is why I am making these remarks after this 5-long-years' anniversary that occurred yesterday.

Last year, I introduced a resolution condemning the FARC for its use of hostage taking and drug cultivation to visit terror upon peaceful people. Our colleagues passed that resolution, which also called for the immediate release of all those FARC hostages, including the Americans I have mentioned.

I am here today, after 5 long years of these Americans' captivity, to again remind our colleagues of the plight of these men and their families and to ask for their support in doing everything possible, as we continue to try to secure their freedom.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleague from Florida raising the issue of people whom we hope to get out alive and also appreciate the poetry of my colleague from West Virginia. I, too, am amazed and quite a bit envious that he has so many poems memorized and he can deliver them so well. It is a lost art, more of his generation than mine, but maybe it will come back in the next.

CRISIS IN CONGO

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise to raise the awareness of my colleagues to an issue. I will be putting in a bill on it and hope to attract their attention.

I have worked on Africa for some period of time. A humanitarian crisis of incredible proportions is taking place in many places in Africa. We need to do more, and a lot more people are doing more.

I think we are at a moment where Africa is becoming a focus in both Europe and the United States, left and right; for economic reasons, the Chinese are going in very aggressively; for militant Islamic reasons, people are coming in trying to penetrate into the continent.

One of the first things we need to do to be able to grow the continent and

allow people there to develop some sort of standard of living, some sort of quality of life and to be able to live, is to get the conflict out. One of the key things we need to go at in reducing the conflict is getting the money out of the conflict. We have had some success about this in the past.

A decade ago, people were talking about blood diamonds in Western Africa and getting those out of the trafficked portion, out of the commodity business, and getting them into legitimate means of commerce. Out of that, we reduced the money into the conflict, and, as a result, had a substantial impact on the conflict and reducing the conflict in Western Africa.

I wish to show a picture to my colleagues, many of whom I think probably are not aware of what it is. This is coltan. It is a booming commodity that is in this item. I realize, and I hope my colleagues, particularly the Senator from West Virginia, will allow me to show this, what should not be on the Senate floor, but to show this for purposes of demonstration of what this is doing and why it is important.

This is a BlackBerry. Cell phones used to get hot when people would use them for a period of time. They tried to figure out what can we do to try to cool them down. They found a substance called coltan that they were able to transition into tantalum. It now carries the current in this electronic equipment. It doesn't get hot. Eighty percent of Africa's coltan comes out of Congo. Eighty percent of the world's coltan comes out of Africa, and most of this comes out of a conflict region in Eastern Congo.

I believe most of this is funding a good portion of the conflict in Eastern Congo, where 1,500 people a day are dying because they cannot get access to medical care, they cannot get access to water, they cannot get access to food—because of the conflict. And the conflict is funded by this stuff: It is funded by coltan.

There is a long history of what has been taking place in Congo. Many people remember reading such books as "The Heart of Darkness" and "King Leopold's Ghost" and about the raiding that has taken place in Congo for a century. Unfortunately, we are in the latest chapter of that conflict.

In Joseph Conrad's "Heart of Darkness," Conrad describes King Leopold's colonial project of the Democratic Republic of Congo, then known as Congo Free State, as "the vilest scramble for loot that ever disfigured the history of human conscience." Solely for the purpose of extracting a very precious manufacturing resource of the day—and that resource was rubber—King Leopold seized Congo and exploited the local population by turning it into a slave colony. During his 24-year tyranny of Congo Free State, 13 million Congolese died. Leopold's legacy lives on in the coltan mining processes of today.

That is chapter one.