

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOUSE
VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 2009—
MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, ordinarily I would ask consent to proceed to legislation, especially S. 160, a bill to provide the District of Columbia a voting seat and the State of Utah an additional seat in the House of Representatives, but I know there is an objection; therefore, I will not ask consent. But in view of an objection that would be lodged against the proceeding, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 23, S. 160, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under rule XXII, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 160, the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to S. 160, the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009.

Harry Reid, Joseph I. Lieberman, Richard Durbin, Charles E. Schumer, Christopher J. Dodd, Benjamin L. Cardin, Edward E. Kaufman, Mark Udall, Daniel K. Inouye, Michael F. Bennet, Mary L. Landrieu, Mark L. Pryor, Sheldon Whitehouse, Roland W. Burris, Patty Murray, Bernard Sanders, Thomas R. Carper.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum be waived.

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

Mr. REID. I now withdraw the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader has that right. The motion is withdrawn.

Mr. REID. I now ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote occur at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, February 24; that if cloture is invoked on the motion, then all postcloture time be considered yielded back, the motion to proceed be agreed to, and the Senate proceed to the consideration of the bill.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF HILDA L. SOLIS
TO BE SECRETARY OF LABOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Calendar No. 18, Hilda L. Solis, of California, to be Secretary of Labor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Hilda L. Solis, of California, to be Secretary of Labor.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Hilda L. Solis, of California, to be Secretary of Labor.

Harry Reid, Christopher J. Dodd, Richard Durbin, Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Edward E. Kaufman, Joseph I. Lieberman, Mark Udall, Daniel K. Inouye, Michael F. Bennet, Mary L. Landrieu, Mark L. Pryor, Sheldon Whitehouse, Roland W. Burris, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Blanche L. Lincoln, Bernard Sanders.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now resume legislative session.

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

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94-304, as amended by Public Law 99-7, appoints the following Senators as members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Helsinki, during the 111th Congress: the Honorable RICHARD BURR of North Carolina and the Honorable ROGER WICKER of Mississippi.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 35.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 35) honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 35) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND A CONDITIONAL RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 47.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 47) providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 47) was agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 47

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Thursday, February 12, 2009, through Monday, February 16, 2009, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2009, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Friday, February 13, 2009, through Friday, February 20, 2009, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2009, or such other time on that day as may be specified in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly 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 if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, when we get back on that Monday, a week from this Monday, we are going to have Washington's Farewell Address. It will be read by Senator JOHANNIS of Nebraska. It alternates back and forth between Democrats and Republicans. This is the time for the Republicans to read the address. There will be no votes on Monday as a result of the agreement we reached just a minute ago on this unanimous consent request.

On the 24th, at 11 a.m., there will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed

to the DC House Voting Rights Act. If cloture is invoked on the motion to proceed, postcloture time will be yielded back, and the Senate will proceed to the bill. There will be immediately another cloture vote on the nomination of HILDA SOLIS to be President Obama's Secretary of Labor.

I anticipate that after the luncheons we have every week with our caucuses, we will reach an agreement for a time certain for a vote on the confirmation of the nomination of HILDA SOLIS.

Everyone is reminded that President Obama will address a joint session of Congress Tuesday evening at 9 p.m. in the House Chamber. Members of the Senate will gather on the Senate floor at 8:30 p.m. and proceed to the House.

On Wednesday, February 25, the DC voting rights bill will be up, be open to debate and amendments. We hope to complete this bill by the end of the week.

I would recognize that the House is going to take up, the week we get back, the omnibus appropriations bill.

Friday, February 26, is an announced no-vote day.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2009

Mr. REID. So, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned under the provisions of H. Con. Res. 47 until 2 p.m. on Monday, February 23; that following the prayer and 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 that the Senator from Nebraska, Mr. JOHANNIS, be recognized to read Washington's Farewell Address; further, that following the address, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 160, the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009.

A TEAM EFFORT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, just in closing, it has been a long, hard several weeks for our valiant staff, and there is not any way anyone could suggest well enough the enormous contributions they make to making this body flourish the way it does.

We have gotten a tremendous amount of work done this first working period of this Congress. We should be proud of what we have done. We have passed the most sweeping environmental bill in more than 25 years. We have passed the discrimination bill, the Lilly Ledbetter bill, which is an important piece of legislation for women all over America. We passed the Children's Health Insurance Program, which allow millions of American children to have health insurance coverage that they would not have ordinarily. And we just passed this bill to help our struggling economy. So I think the American people should see that we have

worked together on a bipartisan basis to accomplish a lot.

We are so fortunate to have our new President. It is a pleasure to work with him. I have had, this past couple of weeks, the ability to visit with him firsthand in legislative combat.

They are competent. I am so impressed. The President's chief of staff Rahm Emanuel—we could not have done this without his assistance, guidance, and directness.

We had the head of the Office of Management and Budget, Peter Orszag, who I called personally last night to tell him that I know he is not a long-time person involved in politics, but he is a natural. He is a brilliant man. He has a degree from Princeton. He has a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics. I am very impressed with this man, who I did not know other than to say hello to, but I have gotten to know him well because we have spent days together in the last short period of time.

The President's representative up here, who we will deal with all the time, Phil Schiliro, has done a really wonderful job.

Rob Nabors, who was the longtime staff assistant, director of the Appropriations Committee for Chairman OBEY, has been magnificent in his work for the White House, working as Peter Orszag's assistant.

There are a lot of people who allowed us to get to where we are, and I appreciate very much their help. It was a real long, hard pull.

The Presiding Officer, my dear friend, the senior Senator from the State of Illinois, who came to Washington with me in 1982, has been invaluable during this very difficult time working on this bill.

Senator SCHUMER of New York, of course, works with me and Senator DURBIN on all the things we do.

And the final point of that legislative team is PATTY MURRAY. She is such a contributor to this Senate. I have such respect for her. She has such a soft touch, but she is as strong as anybody in the Senate.

I am not going to go through the entire list of people. Many, many worked hard.

The chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator INOUE, is a hero in many different ways. He is a Member of the Senate who has had the Congressional Medal of Honor awarded to him for his valiant efforts in World War II.

The chairman of the Finance Committee, Senator BAUCUS, was involved in this from the very beginning and did such a great job.

My personal staff has spent longer hours than I have put in. My chief of staff Gary Myrick is very quiet but such a help to me and the Senate; Randy Devalk, everyone in the Senate depends on him. He is a wealth of knowledge, a fountain of legislative information, and he has just been, really, a remarkably good person.

Mr. President, I am sure I have left off people, but this piece of legislation, I am so happy we were able to get it done.

I will never, ever forget the valiancy of those three brave Republicans who broke from the pack and stood alone to tell America that we needed to do something with our economy which needed help: Senator SNOWE from Maine, and Senator COLLINS from Maine, Senator SPECTER from Pennsylvania. But for them we would not be where we are.

Senator INOUE was masterful in what he did. Senator BAUCUS was tremendous in the Finance Committee, and his staff. Senator BAUCUS's staff was really very good, led by Russ Sullivan, who we depend on—all of us—for his knowledge. He is a CPA. He has been a feature in the Senate for a long time and he was so very important.

I did not mention a person we have come to depend on in the Senate—all of us—because he has been the chief person on the Appropriations Committee for Senator BYRD, and that is Chuck Kieffer, who was with us all the time, as was Senator INOUE's chief clerk on the Appropriations Committee, Charlie Houy.

Now, as I said, I am sure I have missed a few people because this was, really, a big team effort.

In my own mind, this piece of legislation is the most important piece of legislation I have worked on for the country. The country is in trouble, and we are so fortunate we were able to get it passed. It is going to give this country a shot in the arm. My State of Nevada needs this so very much. We are going to have a number of meetings in Nevada next week to talk about all the good that will flow to Nevada as a result of its passage.

As usual, Lula Davis is so important to how we function here. She is the person who tells us how we can move forward on things. She is invaluable to every Democratic Senator, and especially to me.

As I announced earlier, Mr. President, the next vote will occur at 11 a.m., Tuesday, February 24. That vote will be on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the District of Columbia House voting rights legislation.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2009, AT 2 P.M.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the foregoing requests are all agreed to.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 11:03 p.m., adjourned until Monday, February 23, 2009, at 2 p.m.