

to the junior Senator from Texas to pick his favorite parts of the government on a daily basis. Today it is parks, tomorrow it is NIH, maybe later it will be something else.

Mr. SCHUMER. Would the leader yield for a question?

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield.

Mr. SCHUMER. I simply wanted to follow up on what he said.

If we were to go along with these individual UC requests—

Mr. CORNYN. Regular order, Mr. President.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the request?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, here is the situation. The junior Senator from Texas wants to fund everything else, just not ObamaCare. Here is what one columnist said today—Dana Milbank from the Washington Post—and I will be quick; I know Senators have a lot to talk about here:

House Republicans continued what might be called the lifeboat strategy: deciding which government functions are worth saving. In: veterans, the troops and tourist attractions. Out: Poor children, pregnant women, and just about every government function that regulates business or requires people to pay taxes. Here are some of the functions not boarding—

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, is that an objection?

Mr. REID. I will use leader time then, Mr. President.

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

Mr. REID. So if they are afraid to listen to the things I have to say, they should listen, because the government is closed, and it is closed because they have helped close it. So let's not try to be technical here. I want to say something and I am going to say it.

Continuing the Milbank quote:

Here are some of the functions not boarding the GOP lifeboats: market regulation, chemical spill investigations, antitrust enforcement, work site immigration checks, workplace safety inspections, the Environmental Protection Agency . . . communications and trade regulation, nutrition for 9 million children and pregnant women, flu monitoring and other functions of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and housing rental assistance for the poor.

Here is what else he wrote:

And that's quite a list that the Tea Party is throwing out of the boat. We need to end the Government shutdown.

I say, without any reservation, that the key to opening the government still remains with the Senate-passed funding resolution that will open the government. We will talk about anything they want to talk about. We have said that.

I ask unanimous consent that their request be modified as follows: That an amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; that the joint resolution, as amended, be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

This amendment is the text that passed the Senate and is the clean continuing resolution for the entire government. It is something that is already over in the House and reportedly has the support of the majority of the Members of the House of Representatives, including at least 20 Republicans, and some report as many as 100.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the modified request?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. I object to the previous consent.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, with all due respect to my good friend the majority leader, he was speaking about the junior Senator from Texas, whom I don't see on the floor at the moment. The request was made by the minority leader, the Republican leader of the Senate, and it dealt, quite appropriately, with veterans' benefits. That was the whole purpose of the consent request.

I would repeat that I was the one who requested consent that we provide relief for veterans during this shutdown, and the person to whom his speech seems to be directed I don't see on the floor at the moment. But with that, I know we are in the middle of a colloquy here, and the Republican whip has the podium now.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican whip.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.J. RES. 70

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I want to raise as a preliminary matter under rule XIX of the Senate Rules, no Senator shall in debate directly or indirectly by any form of words impute to another Senator or to other Senators any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming a Senator.

I want to remind all our colleagues that when they talk about Members of the Senate who are not on the floor and not here or able to defend themselves, I think if not the letter of the rule, certainly the spirit is in jeopardy of being transgressed, and I think we don't want to head down that path.

I would point out that we have witnessed, with some dismay, many of our World War II veterans being turned away at the World War II Memorial here in Washington, DC.

A number of these Honor Flights come from my State. There will be one that comes here tomorrow afternoon. I intend to meet them and welcome them to Washington and visit the World War II Memorial with them.

These gentlemen and ladies are quite advanced in years, and for many of them—like, for example, my father-in-law who landed on Utah Beach on the second day of the Normandy invasion,

his physical health is not such that he could come. But he would love to come to the Memorial.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. CORNYN. I will not yield for a question at this time. I will at a later time.

He would love to visit the World War II Memorial. Unfortunately, his health is not such that he can. But those who can are coming to Washington. There will be one from Fort Worth coming on Tuesday, and I intend to meet them and to welcome them. They should not be turned back because of this politically concocted government shutdown—one that the President and the majority leader seem to be enjoying but which is causing a lot of hardship and inconvenience.

The House of Representatives has passed a separate piece of legislation that would open the World War II Memorial, along with other national park services. I would note it got 252 votes in the House of Representatives yesterday, including 23 Democrats. I hope it would enjoy the same sort of bipartisan support in the Senate.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 70, making continuing appropriations for National Park Service operations, which was received from the House; that the measure be read three times and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, I ask unanimous consent that their request be modified as follows: That an amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; that the joint resolution, as amended, be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

Mr. CORNYN. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, may I inquire. Did the majority leader object to my unanimous consent request or seek to amend it?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection has not yet been heard. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The objection is heard.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.J. RES. 73

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I recognize my colleagues from Missouri and South Dakota, who I know also have unanimous consents, and I yield to them for those.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank my friend from Texas for yielding.

On Monday morning, I was scheduled to be at Washington University in St.

Louis, MO, to look at some of their research. A lot of the research NIH does has been done in our State; one-third of the research for the human genome project was done in our State.

Then, on Tuesday evening, for the fifth year in a row, I was at the fundraising event for the Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health, where families and children can stay while they are there for treatment. This is a private sector event. In spite of everything else that was going on, it was a great event where lots of money was raised for those kids.

I said at that event that somebody told me years ago that if everybody in your family is well, you have lots of problems. If somebody in your family is sick, you have one problem. The Children's Inn is one of the places where people help families deal with the one problem they have.

But as virtually every Member of this Senate at one time or another has said, the work of the NIH is important. It is important that it continue. The House yesterday passed a House joint resolution that would continue that work.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 73, making continuing appropriations for the National Institutes of Health for the fiscal year 2014; that the measure be read three times and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I am going to make a counteroffer to the Senator from Missouri which is even better. It is going to open the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and all of the medical research at the Department of Defense. We are going to make sure all of the medical research and medical services of the Federal Government in every agency at every level are open for business immediately, and the Senator from Missouri, by agreeing to this modification, will go way beyond the National Institutes of Health. He is going to be opening all of these medical services.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the request be modified as follows: that an amendment which is at the desk be agreed to; that the joint resolution, as amended, then be read a third time and passed; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

This amendment is the text that passed the Senate, is a clean continuing resolution for the entire government, including the National Institutes of Health, and is something that is already over in the House and reportedly has the support of a majority of the Members of the House of Representatives. This is an opportunity for the Senator from Missouri to finally break down this government shutdown

and put all the medical services of the Federal Government back in business immediately.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the modified request?

Mr. BLUNT. Reserving the right to object, I would remind my good friend from Illinois that there was a time when in the Senate we dealt with all of these issues individually—as we should have last year and didn't. There were no appropriations bills on the floor.

A continuing resolution is not the best way to do the business of the country, and I would object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. DURBIN. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 3230

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I yield to the Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the men and women who serve our Nation in the Guard and Reserve shouldn't be impacted by a partial government shutdown.

Recently, the House and Senate unanimously passed the pay our military first act, which was signed into law by the President this past Monday. That bill ensures that Active-Duty military and those who support them stay on the job regardless of the dysfunction in Washington. Congress was right and passed the legislation, and President Obama was right to immediately sign it into law.

Today, the House of Representatives is going to pass H.R. 3230, the Pay Our Guard and Reserve Act. This bill provides funding to pay Guard and Reserve troops who are not currently on Active Duty. Although these men and women currently don't have Active-Duty status, they have regularly scheduled training requirements. They stand ready to serve in overseas conflicts and to respond to domestic disasters if called upon by their country.

These men and women proudly serve this country, and they should not be impacted by spending disagreements in Washington. Today the Senate has a chance to give these individuals and their families greater certainty by passing H.R. 3220, as soon as it is received from the House.

I am sorry to hear that the majority and the President have already indicated they are going to oppose this and that the President has threatened to veto this legislation. I can't imagine that we would not do for our Guard and Reserve troops what we have already done for our Active-Duty troops. I think that is a big mistake.

So I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate receives H.R. 3230, making continuing appropriations during a government shutdown to provide

pay allowances to members of the Reserve components of the Armed Forces; that the measure be read three times and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would ask the Senator from Illinois and the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense to respond.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I am going to offer to the Senator from South Dakota an even better deal. Not only will we help the reservists, not only will we open the Veterans' Administration, but out of the two million federal workers, 800,000 have been furloughed. There are over a half a million veterans in the federal workforce and a fourth of them are disabled. Now I am going to give the Senator from South Dakota an opportunity to put them all back to work immediately, including paying the reservists and everything he suggested.

I ask unanimous consent that the request of the Senator from South Dakota be modified as follows: that the amendment which is at the desk be agreed to; that the bill as amended then be read a third time and passed; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

This amendment is the text that passed the Senate. It is a clean continuing resolution for the entire government and will put thousands of disabled veterans back to work. It is something already in the House and reportedly has the support of a majority of the Members of the House of Representatives.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the modified request?

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, as the Senator from Illinois has already pointed out, that has already passed in the Senate. What he is suggesting is already in the House, not being acted on.

What the Senate can act on is legislation that is being sent from the House that would ensure that our National Guard and Reserve troops are treated the same way as our Active troops are treated. I think that is only fair and only fitting. These are people who not only respond to domestic disasters but are also involved in conflicts overseas on a regular basis.

So I would object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The objection is heard to the modification requested.

Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on behalf of the one-half million veteran Federal employees, one-fourth of whom are disabled, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Republican whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, may I inquire how much time is remaining in our allocated time?