

and my dear friend HARRY REID. From the beginning he was stalwart. He led with his strength. He said that we cannot govern in a way where any faction says: Unless we get our way, we will hurt the American people by closing down the government, by letting us default. He said: We cannot stand for that any longer. We have had enough of that in Washington, and we are not going to bend to that type of awful politics.

He stood firm. He stood strong. He didn't waiver. Tonight we are passing the bill that he sought and we sought 3 weeks ago.

I would also like to salute the Republican leader Senator MCCONNELL. We all know he has a difficult political situation. We all know it would have been easier for him to duck. We all know that when it became clear the House of Representatives was so tied in a knot that it couldn't function, it couldn't pass any bill, Leader MCCONNELL stepped up for the good of the Nation and showed courage. He deserves our thanks as well.

Finally, I will make one more point. If there is a silver lining that can come out of this gray cloud, it is that perhaps, moving forward, the politics of brinkmanship, of confrontation has reached its peak in this body and in this country.

We have seen that a small faction in either House, when it says "my way or no way," when it says "I am going to do such hurt to innocent people that you will have to succumb to me"—we saw they failed, hopefully with large bipartisan votes, certainly in this Chamber and perhaps in the other. And we have seen that many on both sides of the aisle have come together and said: We are not going to go along with this type of politics, from wherever it comes.

Perhaps when January 15 and February 7 come about, we will not see a repeat of what we have seen these last few weeks because it has been repudiated by the vast majority in this body and in the other body and certainly by the American people, a very small percentage of whom supported the politics of brinkmanship—the reckless, irresponsible politics of brinkmanship that some have exercised over the last few weeks.

So that would be the silver lining in this cloud, that we can go back to the old way of legislating where we sit down, we talk over our differences, we negotiate, and we come to a conclusion for the good of America, the way the Founding Fathers envisioned it. They did not envision what happened here in the last 3 weeks, and it was not America's finest moment. But out of this great darkness can come some light—the desire on both sides of the aisle, of the majority of both parties to say: Enough brinkmanship. Let's sit down, let's negotiate, and let's move forward so this great country will be led by its government instead of pulled down by its government. That is my fervent wish.

After these last 3 weeks we are ending where we started, unfortunately, and people have been hurt as that happened. But perhaps the lessons of the last 3 weeks will sink in amongst us all and we will not see a repeat of what has happened.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT— H. CON. RES. 25

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am pleased we have reached an agreement that will reopen the government and allow us to pay our bills and provide a path forward now for bipartisan budget negotiations. As part of this bipartisan deal, I will once again tonight ask unanimous consent to begin a bipartisan budget conference.

The budgets that passed the Senate and the House 6 months ago are very different. Nobody thinks it is going to be easy to get to a deal. But I know I would not have fought so hard for so long to begin bipartisan negotiations if I did not think we could find some common ground and work something out.

I do not think there is anyone in Congress who wants to put the country through the last few weeks again, and I am hopeful we can now work together in a budget conference to end these constant crises and work now toward a balanced and bipartisan deal that the American people expect and deserve.

So I tonight ask unanimous consent that if the Senate passes H.R. 2775, as amended, the Senate then proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 33, H. Con. Res. 25; that the amendment at the desk, which is the text of S. Con. Res. 8, the budget resolution agreed to by the Senate, be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that H. Con. Res. 25, as amended, be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the motion for the Senate to insist on its amendment be agreed to; that the Senate request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses and authorize the Chair to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate, with a ratio of 12 Democrats and 10 Republicans; that the conferees be instructed to report back a conference report by December 13, 2013; that if the Senate receives from the House a request to go to conference on S. Con. Res. 8, the agreement be modified so that the Senate agree to the request to go to conference on S. Con. Res. 8, with the remaining provisions

related to the conference remaining in effect; further, that it not be in order for the Senate to consider a conference report with respect to H. Con. Res. 25 or S. Con. Res. 8 if it includes reconciliation instructions to raise the debt limit; and that all of the above occur with no intervening action or debate; finally, that H. Con. Res. 25, as amended, and agreed to, be held at the desk until a message is received from the House relative to H.R. 2775, and if the House fails to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2775, this agreement be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2775

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 193, H.R. 2775; that the substitute amendment which is at the desk be agreed to; that a cloture motion on the bill, as amended, which is at the desk then be read; that the mandatory quorum required under rule XXII be waived; that no other amendments, points of order or motions be in order to the bill; that the Senate then proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the bill, as amended; that if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time be yielded back, and the bill, as amended, be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended; that if the bill, as amended, is passed, a title amendment which is at the desk be agreed to; finally, that if cloture is not invoked, the action above with respect to the amendment to the bill be vitiated and the bill be returned to the calendar.

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

NO SUBSIDIES WITHOUT VERIFICATION ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2775, which the clerk will report by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2775) to condition the provision of premium and cost-sharing subsidies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act upon a certification that a program to verify household income and other qualifications for such subsidies is operational, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, Amendment No. 2004 is agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read 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 H.R. 2775, as amended.

Harry Reid, Richard J. Durbin, Patty Murray, Barbara Boxer, Patrick J. Leahy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Michael F. Bennet, John D. Rockefeller IV, Jon Tester, Jack Reed, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Benjamin L. Cardin, Charles E. Schumer, Christopher A. Coons.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on H.R. 2775, as amended, should be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 83, nays 16, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 218 Leg.]

YEAS—83

Alexander	Fischer	Merkley
Ayotte	Flake	Mikulski
Baldwin	Franken	Moran
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Baucus	Graham	Murphy
Begich	Hagan	Murray
Bennet	Harkin	Nelson
Blumenthal	Hatch	Portman
Blunt	Heinrich	Pryor
Boozman	Heitkamp	Reed
Boxer	Hirono	Reid
Brown	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Burr	Isakson	Sanders
Cantwell	Johanns	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Carper	Kaine	Scott
Casey	King	Shaheen
Chambliss	Kirk	Stabenow
Chiesa	Klobuchar	Tester
Coats	Landrieu	Thune
Coburn	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Cochran	Levin	Udall (NM)
Collins	Manchin	Warner
Coons	Markey	Warren
Corker	McCain	Whitehouse
Donnelly	McCaskill	Wicker
Durbin	McConnell	Wyden
Feinstein	Menendez	

NAYS—16

Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Crapo	Lee	Shelby
Cruz	Paul	Toomey
Enzi	Risch	Vitter
Grassley	Roberts	
Heller	Rubio	

NOT VOTING—1

Inhofe

Under the previous order, cloture having been invoked, all time is yielded back.

The bill, as amended, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the bill, as amended, having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. CORKER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 81, nays 18, as follows:

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

The result was announced—yeas 81, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 219 Leg.]

YEAS—81

Alexander	Fischer	Menendez
Ayotte	Flake	Merkley
Baldwin	Franken	Mikulski
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Moran
Baucus	Graham	Murkowski
Begich	Hagan	Murphy
Bennet	Harkin	Murray
Blumenthal	Hatch	Nelson
Blunt	Heinrich	Portman
Boozman	Heitkamp	Pryor
Boxer	Hirono	Reed
Brown	Hoeven	Reid
Burr	Isakson	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Johanns	Sanders
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Schatz
Carper	Kaine	Schumer
Casey	King	Shaheen
Chambliss	Kirk	Stabenow
Chiesa	Klobuchar	Tester
Coats	Landrieu	Thune
Cochran	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Collins	Levin	Udall (NM)
Coons	Manchin	Warner
Corker	Markey	Warren
Donnelly	McCain	Whitehouse
Durbin	McCaskill	Wicker
Feinstein	McConnell	Wyden

NAYS—18

Coburn	Heller	Rubio
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Crapo	Lee	Sessions
Cruz	Paul	Shelby
Enzi	Risch	Toomey
Grassley	Roberts	Vitter

NOT VOTING—1

Inhofe

The bill (H.R. 2775), as amended, was passed.

The amendment (No. 2005) was agreed to, as follows:

Amend the title to read: “An Act making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes.”

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

ESTABLISHING THE BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 25, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 25) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2014 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2023.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, amendment No. 2006 is agreed to, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table; H. Con. Res. 25, as amended, is

agreed to; the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the Senate insists on its amendment, requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, conferees are instructed to report back by December 13, 2013, and the Chair is authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

The amendment (No. 2006) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF RICHARD F. GRIFFIN, JR., TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

Mr. REID. I unanimous consent to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 344.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the motion to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Richard F. Griffin, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board for a term of four years.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read 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 Richard F. Griffin, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board.

Harry Reid, Brian Schatz, Barbara Boxer, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson, Jeff Merkley, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Debbie Stabenow, Mark R. Warner, Tammy Baldwin, Jeanne Shaheen, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Mark Udall, Tom Udall, Michael F. Bennet, Amy Klobuchar, Elizabeth Warren, Ron Wyden.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived and that the Senate now resume legislative session.

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