

that have other amendments not germane to the specific purpose of S. 2 to wait for the appropriate time so that we do not frustrate the will of the people expressed in the last election, and that we move forward with ending this special treatment of Capitol Hill to be exempted from 11 major pieces of legislation. Let us move on with this bill, get it to the President for signature—the President wants to sign it—and then take up the usual course of business and abide with faith in the promise of the distinguished majority leader that these issues will be brought up and bring them up at that appropriate time. We should not try to wreck a very good piece of legislation that passed the House unanimously and I will bet will almost pass this body unanimously as well.

I yield the floor and urge Senators on my side who want to debate Senator WELLSTONE's amendment to please come over here and do that, because we will not have rollcalls as long as there is a leadership meeting down at the White House.

Mr. GLENN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. GLENN. Mr. President, I do not have a dog in this fight. I do not have an amendment that I am proposing here, but I cannot help but respond to the remarks of my distinguished colleague from Iowa. I will be very brief because I know Senator SIMON would like to make a statement here on the floor and I am happy to see him do that.

But this idea that somehow because there is a push on for something here that we can avoid having anyone put on amendments is wishful thinking. I need only go back in my mind's eye and remember what was happening about 60 days ago or 90 days ago here on floor when anything we put forth was subject to amendments, extraneous or not. It was delay for delay's sake and it was a scorched earth policy.

To say that we should let some piece of legislation, as much as I want it—and I am as big a backer on this piece of legislation on congressional accountability one could possibly be, but it is entirely within the right of any Senator who wants to offer an amendment. Although I do not have an amendment to offer, I do not want to let anything go by that would be critical of people who do have amendments to offer and are offering them in all good sincerity. They think it is right. If they want to attach it on by the rules of the Senate, we, obviously, can do that.

We had talk here yesterday about we should be giving the new majority a chance to govern. Well, we do not set aside all the Senate rules in giving anybody a chance to lead or a chance to govern. I am all for leadership having all the leadership prerogatives, but those prerogatives do not mean that we are able to set aside amendments that

people may, in all sincerity, propose, whether I agree with them or not.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SIMON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 5 minutes as if in morning business.

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

THE STRIKE AT BRIDGESTONE/ FIRESTONE

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, on July 12, of last year, 4,200 members of the United Rubber Workers went on strike at Bridgestone/Firestone. The plants are in Decatur, IL; Des Moines, IA; Oklahoma City; Akron, OH; and Noblesville, IN. Negotiations had been going on for some time prior to that on the new contract. The United Rubber Workers had insisted on a similar contract to the contract they had with Goodyear.

Bridgestone/Firestone, which is wholly owned by a Japanese company, insisted they could not do that, and then negotiations broke off.

The distinguished Senator from Ohio, as well as some of our colleagues, met with the Japanese Ambassador and urged that they renew negotiations. Unfortunately, the situation has deteriorated so that Bridgestone/Firestone has said they are going to permanently replace all these workers.

It is the first time in modern history that that has been done in a large scale, with the exception of the PATCO strike. And there, frankly, you had people who were breaking the Federal law, and President Reagan—and I think it could have been handled better—but President Reagan made the proper decision that you cannot violate the Federal law and he replaced the workers. This is an unusual situation. It is contrary to the traditions of labor-management relations in our country. Interestingly, it would be illegal in Japan.

Now, we have a situation where 2,000 or more workers are going to be permanently replaced. It is not going to be good for labor-management relations in those communities. It is not going to be good for United States-Japanese relations. It is just a bad situation all the way around. My hope is that we can urge our friends in Japan and urge the leaders of this company to recognize this is not wise.

Short-term may save a few bucks. I do not know any of the details of the negotiations. But I have been involved in labor-management negotiations often enough that I know if you sit around a table and try and work things out, generally you can work out a practical compromise. I urge they do that. That they not go ahead as they are now planning.

I will, later today, be contacting some of our colleagues in the affected States with a resolution that they may

want to cosponsor, urging that they get back to the negotiating table and not have this permanent striker replacement. It is interesting that of the modern nations only Great Britain, Singapore, and Hong Kong permit permanent striker placement, plus the United States. But we have a tradition of not doing it. That tradition is occasionally violated by a very small company, but rarely by any company this large.

I hope we can have some common sense by the leaders of this industry. I hope the leaders of this industry and the United Rubber Workers can get together. I urge them not to proceed with the permanent replacement of these workers.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

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

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

THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 11:15 a.m. today the Senate resume consideration of the Wellstone amendment, No. 5, and at that point Senator MCCONNELL will be recognized to speak for not more than 10 minutes, to be followed by 20 minutes under the control of Senator WELLSTONE.

I further ask unanimous consent that at 11:45 a.m. the majority leader, or his designee, be recognized to make a motion to table the Wellstone amendment.

I further ask unanimous consent that if the Wellstone amendment is not tabled, Senator BROWN be recognized to offer a second-degree amendment.

Mr. President, I have also been informed that Senator COATS will be here presently and would like to speak briefly on the WELLSTONE amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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