

APPOINTMENT BY THE
DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic leader, pursuant to Public Law 103-322, announces the appointment of Gilbert L. Gallegos, of New Mexico, to the National Commission to Support Law Enforcement.

Mr. WARNER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, the leaders of the U.S. Senate, the majority leader and Democratic leader, are still at the White House with the President. Let us hope that is a good sign. And, therefore, 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. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, we have contacted the White House. I am to report that the meeting is still in progress with the President. Accordingly, the Senate will remain in session and 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. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 14, 1995

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until the hour of 12 noon, Tuesday, November 14; that following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved to date, no resolutions come over under the rule, the call of the calendar be dispensed with and the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and then there be a period for the transaction of morning business until the hour of 12:30 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

Mr. DOLE. I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess from the hours of 12:30 to 2:15 for the weekly policy conferences to meet.

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

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, while awaiting the arrival of the Democratic leader, in the meantime, 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. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

DISCUSSIONS AT THE WHITE
HOUSE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, we just completed our discussions down at the White House. And I think it was a very frank exchange. I must say that I had hoped we might be able to make more progress and come to some resolution to allow the Government to function in order tomorrow, but that is not going to be possible. We agreed to meet again tomorrow to continue our discussions and negotiations.

I think it was a very candid exchange. We now have a better understanding where both sides are on many of these issues. But we are a long way from any resolution. I think the President made it very clear that Medicare was not something that we can agree to, under any circumstances, with regard to the continuing resolution. And I think the discussions had a good deal to do with the way with which we might achieve a balanced budget, the timeframe within which that budget could be achieved, hopefully some understanding about how we might begin serious negotiations in achieving a balanced budget by a date certain.

So, I look forward to the negotiations tomorrow. I look forward to working with the majority leader to try to resolve the schedule for the balance of the week as we continue our work downtown. I yield the floor.

Mr. DOLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. DOLE. I think the Democratic leader, Senator DASCHLE, accurately reflected the meeting. It was a frank discussion. I, too, regret we could not come to some agreement tonight so we could rush through a 1-day or a 2-day CR, but I think it would not have been possible.

The first meeting tomorrow will be with the chairmen and ranking members of the Budget Committees in the House and the Senate, with the Chief of Staff, Leon Panetta, and I think also Alice Rivlin, the Budget Director—I am not certain—Senator EXON and Senator DOMENICI on this side. And that will be followed, hopefully, by a

meeting with the principals who were there this evening—myself and Senator DASCHLE on this side.

Obviously, we have had these problems before with CR's and debt ceilings, and we have had the Government shut down for short periods in the past. I hope this will be a very short period. I am not an advocate of shutting down the Government. I just hope that by tomorrow afternoon or tomorrow evening, we will be able to say that we have reached some agreement and that we can pass a continuing resolution and maybe a debt ceiling. I am not certain we can do both tomorrow.

I think it is fair to say we talked not only about the continuing resolution, we talked about the debt ceiling, we talked about reconciliation, some discussion of how we proceed, whether you go through a veto process first with reconciliation, whether you start negotiations now on the budget package.

I think the President's concern primarily, and our concern, is keeping the Government going while we are negotiating some of these very important issues. Balanced budget is very important—very important—on this side of the aisle. I am sure it is important on the other side of the aisle. It is particularly important to many Members on the House side where it is very difficult—some of us have served in the House—to pass a debt ceiling and pass a continuing resolution, and there are some things added to it. I do not care if we have a Republican or Democrat in the White House and Republicans control the Congress or Democrats, continuing resolutions and debt ceilings have always been vehicles for extraneous amendments. That is how the famous Boland amendment was adopted on a continuing resolution or debt extension. We have had all 13 appropriations bills put on continuing resolutions. So it is not unprecedented.

But notwithstanding, I still hope we can come together very quickly tomorrow, if possible, and be able to tell everybody in Government this will be a 1-day affair. It may not happen. But at least I think we made some progress this evening, and I thank Senator DASCHLE and the others who attended the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:12 a.m., adjourned until Tuesday, November 14, 1995, at 12 noon.