

A SALUTE TO BOB DOLE

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise to say that the Senate is well served with BOB DOLE as majority leader. He has broken the record now for the all-time service. He is a man of integrity, ability, and dedication, and we are fortunate to have had him serve here.

Back in his home State, he was a member of the legislature and a prosecuting attorney. He went into World War II, was seriously injured, almost killed, and one arm is still deficient.

I say to you, I hope he will serve continuously until he becomes the next President of the United States.

[Applause, Senators rising.]

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK ACT OF 1995—CONFERENCE REPORT

The Senate continued with consideration of the conference report.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the conference report. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEWINE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 613 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Abraham	Frist	McConnell
Ashcroft	Gorton	Murkowski
Baucus	Gramm	Nickles
Bennett	Grams	Pressler
Bond	Grassley	Roth
Brown	Gregg	Santorum
Burns	Hatch	Shelby
Chafee	Helms	Simpson
Coats	Hutchison	Smith
Cochran	Inhofe	Snowe
Cohen	Jeffords	Specter
Coverdell	Kassebaum	Stevens
Craig	Kempthorne	Thomas
D'Amato	Kyl	Thompson
DeWine	Lott	Thurmond
Dole	Lugar	Warner
Domenici	Mack	
Faircloth	McCain	

NAYS—47

Akaka	Feinstein	Levin
Biden	Ford	Lieberman
Bingaman	Glenn	Mikulski
Boxer	Graham	Moseley-Braun
Bradley	Harkin	Moynihhan
Breaux	Hatfield	Murray
Bryan	Heflin	Nunn
Bumpers	Hollings	Pell
Byrd	Inouye	Pryor
Campbell	Johnston	Reid
Conrad	Kennedy	Robb
Daschle	Kerrey	Rockefeller
Dodd	Kerry	Sarbanes
Dorgan	Kohl	Simon
Exon	Lautenberg	Wellstone
Feingold	Leahy	

So the conference report was agreed to.

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

Mr. MOYNIHAN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

BIPARTISAN WELFARE REFORM

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I simply want to make the announcement, now that we have had a near unanimous vote on the Democratic side against this measure which would affect 39 percent of the children in our country, we would like to turn to the President's proposal. In his statement yesterday he said he will veto this bill. But, he said, "I am determined to work with Congress to achieve real bipartisan welfare reform." I just this moment was speaking with my friend from New Mexico, who made very serious proposals in that regard. Let us do it.

But, sir, it has to be done here in the Congress—in cooperation with the Executive. An hour from now, the 11 Democratic Senators who voted against this measure in September—Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BRADLEY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERREY of Nebraska, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SIMON, Mr. WELLSTONE, and I—will send a letter to the President encouraging the proposal for a bipartisan welfare reform, but saying it cannot be done in a 4-day or 3-day summit budget conference. This must not come back to us in a proposal put together in 3 days in a room with four people. This is a task for the Congress. We look forward to it. We welcome it. But we put the President respectfully on notice that we must be involved.

Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for allowing me to use this time in morning business, and I yield the floor.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 134

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read a joint resolution for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution, (H.J. Res. 134) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

Mr. DOLE. I object to further proceedings on this matter at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The measure will be placed on the calendar.

THANKING SENATORS

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, first, I thank my colleague, Senator BYRD, for his kind comments and my colleague, Senator THURMOND, from South Carolina. It has been an honor to serve as the Republican leader and an honor to

serve with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle over the years.

I certainly enjoyed my service in the Senate, and I think most every day I have enjoyed being leader. Some days it is in doubt. But it is a great honor and a great responsibility that I am proud to try to carry.

I thank my colleagues on both sides for their continued cooperation.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1500

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). The clerk will read the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1500) to establish the Cache La Poudre River National Water Heritage Area in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I object to further proceedings on this matter at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be placed on the calendar.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1407

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, on another matter, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 282, S. 1407, which would amend the Social Security Act to provide for increases in the amount of allowable earnings under the Social Security earnings limit for individuals who have reached retirement age.

I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to this matter appear in the RECORD at the appropriate place.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, there are a large number of colleagues on our side of the aisle who would like the opportunity to have a good debate about the issue and perhaps offer amendments. So, on their behalf, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I, of course, understand the objection on the part of the distinguished Democratic leader.

I point out that we have been on this issue now for many years. It has been through the Finance Committee.

It is an outrage and an insult to the seniors of this country when we know—and they know—that their Medicare premiums, among other expenses, are going up, and we will not give them this simple relief.

I say to my friends on the other side of the aisle that I have not quit on this issue in 9 years. I am not quitting on it. From now on, every single bill that is before this body is going to have it as an amendment, unless we take it up as freestanding.

This is a terrible disservice to the seniors of this Nation not to lift this

earnings test. It is an anachronism left over from the Depression era.

Mr. President, I want to thank Senator ROTH, and I want to thank Senator MOYNIHAN for his efforts. I thank the distinguished majority leader for his efforts.

This issue is not going away. We owe it to the seniors of this country. It is a terrible disservice not to pass this legislation at this time, although I certainly understand why the other side might object.

We could have passed this long ago. I hope that we can do it as soon as possible beginning next year.

THE LINE-ITEM VETO

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, before I yield the floor, I want to mention one other issue.

Many of us, including the Senator from Indiana, who is here, have worked long and hard on the line-item veto. We worked on the line-item veto irrespective of who the President of the United States was.

I would like to express my deep disappointment that the conference has not acted since February when we passed the line-item veto and we have come to a great impasse on the line-item veto and have not given it to the President of the United States.

Again, I am going to sound obstructionist, but this issue will have to be brought up also as an amendment and for debate if we are not willing to have a conference meet and the conference decide to pass this. It was passed by over 70 votes when we passed it through the Senate, with a far higher majority in the House of Representatives.

When we ran on this side of the aisle in 1994, we made a commitment to pass a line-item veto and to give it to the President of the United States irrespective of the party affiliation of that President.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now go into executive session to begin consideration of the START II treaty.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I think the Democratic leader and I want to be in a position to announce that there probably will be no more votes today.

I think on the START II Treaty, which is now pending under an agreement, I promised the Senator from New Mexico a couple of weeks ago that we would try to do this before we left.

It is my understanding—in fact, the Presiding Officer is one of the principal players—the bill will be managed on this side by the distinguished Senator from Indiana, Senator LUGAR, and he advises me that it may not be necessary to have a rollcall. There may be one amendment in the process of being resolved.

Senator THURMOND has suggested that we go only as far as presentation of the resolution of ratification—that would be satisfactory with me if it is satisfactory with the Democratic leader—because he would like to have the President sign the Defense authorization bill and not finally dispose of the START II until the President has made a determination.

But I think, based on what I have been able to find out in the last few minutes, if it is satisfactory with the Democratic leader, I think we could announce that there will no more votes today.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I appreciate the majority leader's cooperation on this issue.

It appears that there is one outstanding issue that may or may not be resolved with a rollcall vote. If we could make it in order that the amendment and presentation of the resolution of ratification be the only matters pending relating to START and the return, I think we can accommodate the schedule and it will please all of those involved in the negotiations.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I believe we can also dispose of nearly all of the nominations on the Executive Calendar. Of course, anything that we can do by unanimous consent—I think the Senator from Delaware and the Senator from Utah have a bill that will take 1 hour, and it will not require a rollcall vote, on victims' restitution.

Mr. BIDEN. That is correct.

Mr. DOLE. Perhaps that can be disposed of today, and any other matters that we can dispose of on a consent basis—obviously, we will be here later today.

So, based on that comment from the Democratic leader, I think we will announce there will be no more votes today, no votes tomorrow, no votes on Sunday, no votes on Monday, and no votes on Tuesday.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, will the distinguished leader yield?

Mr. DOLE. I am happy to yield.

Mr. BYRD. I hope we will have a rollcall vote on the treaty. So, we can be assured of that at some point.

Mr. DOLE. Yes.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the leader.

Mr. DOLE. I think it is a very important treaty. We should have a rollcall vote.

Mr. THURMOND. May I make inquiry? As I understand, there will be no votes before Christmas, final vote on this treaty? Is that correct?

Mr. DOLE. That is correct, according to the wishes of the distinguished Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. THURMOND. Does that give the President a chance to sign the defense bill?

Mr. DOLE. I think once he recognizes the merit of it, certainly he will be disposed to sign it.

Mr. THURMOND. It is to his advantage and to the advantage of the troops and to the advantage of the defense for him to sign it.

Mr. DOLE. I thank the Senator.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Will the majority leader yield?

Mr. DOLE. Yes.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield for a question, I just wanted to ask about the House resolution that will cover veterans.

Mr. DOLE. We are working on that. The two leaders have discussed not only that provision, but the District of Columbia, foster care, and AFDC. It is our hope that before we leave here today, we can reach some accommodation.

I have also discussed that with the distinguished Senator from New Hampshire, Senator SMITH, who is very interested particularly in the veterans part having had a phone call this morning from a veteran friend of his.

So, hopefully, we can resolve that. The Senator from Massachusetts has an interest in that, too.

TREATY WITH THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON FURTHER REDUCTION AND LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS (THE START II TREATY)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair will announce that the clerk will report the treaty, which is the pending business, and then recognize Senators.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Treaty document No. 103-1, Treaty with the Russian Federation on further reductions and limitation of strategic offensive arms, the START II treaty.

The Senate proceeded to consider the treaty.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

VETERANS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to associate myself with the remarks of the distinguished Senator from Texas. I am reassured that the leader will try to work out this matter with respect to the veterans. The Senator from Texas has taken a lead on this. Senator SIMPSON, the chairman of the Veterans Committee, and myself and the Senator from Texas will be monitoring this through the day.

Thank you very much.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I know we have before us an extremely important measure which Senator LUGAR and Senator PELL are going to lead and manage on the floor.

I had an opportunity to talk to both Senator PELL and Senator LUGAR. It is with their acquiescence that they are going to permit me to speak very, very briefly on another matter and that those comments would be at an appropriate place in the RECORD.

So I do not intend to be more than 5 or 6 minutes. But it is on a matter which I think needs addressing.