

Thereupon, at 11:15 a.m., the Senate recessed subject to the call of the Chair.

The Senate reassembled at 4:07 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. WARNER).

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, we are waiting on the Senate side for, I think, three bills to come over from the House which would in effect put Federal workers back to work, and which is targeted, to a certain extent—two of the bills cover many of the agencies that the Presiding Officer has been concerned about as has this Senator and others on both sides of the aisle. Then there is the third bill which would be the one with the CR until the January 26 date, if the President submits a balanced budget as scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

As I understand, they passed one. They are now on the second. It may be another hour, 2 hours, 2½ hours.

#### RECESS

Mr. DOLE. For the benefit of staff who must sit here, I move the Senate stand in recess until 6:30 p.m.

The motion was agreed to, and the Senate, at 4:08 p.m., recessed until 6:29 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. STEVENS).

Mr. CRAIG addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

#### RECESS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now stand in recess until the hour of 7:30 p.m.

Mr. FORD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, reserving the right to object—I will not object—could the distinguished Senator give us some idea of what the schedule will be for the rest of the evening?

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, it is my understanding that when the majority leader and the minority leader return from the White House, where they are now meeting with the President, the Senate will reconvene at 7:30 in an effort to bring up the resolutions that have now been passed by the House.

Mr. FORD. We still have some others that are yet to be passed that we are to receive tonight, I understand.

Mr. CRAIG. I understand that is the case. It is our belief that they will attempt to handle the business at that time under unanimous consent.

Mr. FORD. As I understand it, will they be coupled together en bloc, or will we be able to work on them one at a time?

Mr. CRAIG. I am advised that it is the intent of the leader to attempt to

do the two pay bills, or spending bills, if you will, en bloc.

Mr. FORD. That is the one that directs the President for a continuing resolution if he lays down a budget that is certified by the Congressional Budget Office and the Speaker of the House.

Mr. CRAIG. I believe that to be the case.

Mr. FORD. I thank the Senator. I have no objection.

Mr. WARNER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, could I inquire of the distinguished acting majority leader: We will have a period of time in which to examine these?

Mr. CRAIG. That is certainly the intent of leadership. The two continuing resolutions have passed the House. They are now in the Senate and can be examined at this time, as I understand it, while the Senate will stand in recess for the next hour.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I have not had the opportunity to examine those. I wanted to make sure.

Mr. CRAIG. I think all Senators who are present would want to examine those before they are considered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is their objection to the request?

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:31 p.m. recessed until 7:30 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be allowed to proceed in morning business until the return of our leaders.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### THE BUDGET DILEMMA

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, it is my understanding, and I think the understanding of most of the Senators present, that the majority leader and the minority leader are at the White House at this moment once again meeting with the President as we try to unravel and resolve the budget issue that we are now in that has brought a portion of our Government to a standstill.

I, like many of my colleagues, am tremendously frustrated by the process of the last several weeks which has failed to produce a resolution that appeared to be a resolution committed to by the White House some weeks ago, that we would negotiate on the terms of a 7-year balanced budget reviewed by CBO figures. That simply has not materialized. And, of course, over the course of the last several weeks, with well over 200,000 Federal employees unemployed by failure to act, it is now time for the Congress to move to the issue of those Federal employees and resolve it.

As many of us know, the House earlier today passed a resolution that would allow those employees to come back to work for a period of time which results hopefully in the ability then of the Congress to move toward a balanced budget and resolve that issue and for us to be able to conclude the budget and get on with the business of operating this Government as I think the American people expect us to do.

I find it ironic that we are yet fumbling with the issue of a budget when we are nearing a statutory deadline that the President must agree to for the submission of a 1997 budget.

Here we are having failed to complete a 1996 budget that is balanced, that honors the commitment that we believe we hold with the American people to produce a balanced budget over the course of the next 7 years, and it will be on February 5, exactly 1 month from today, that the President by law is responsible for submitting the 1997 balanced budget, a product of the 1974 Budget Act.

Why are we in this dilemma at this moment? I think, except for the HHS, Education appropriations bill that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have refused to allow us to debate and to bring to a vote and to send to the President, the Congress has done its homework. It has done what it is responsible for doing under the Constitution in submitting to the President the appropriate appropriations bills.

The President's only action has been to veto, veto, veto the bills that would have kept the veterans' hospitals fully up and running, that would have kept the veterans' programs alive and operative; instead of being subject to the criticism we now hear, that the pharmaceutical shelves at some of our veterans' hospitals may be growing empty if we fail to act responsibly in a short period of time.

The President's actions, if he had not vetoed, would have kept the national parks and the forests and the museums opened and would have funded the Department of Justice and given law enforcement block grants to the States, would have allowed numerous agencies to continue and to complete their obligations to small business contractors and suppliers and provide passport services, and so on and so forth.

That is exactly what has happened. We have watched this President as he