

the care provided is of the highest quality and that funds meant for teaching and indigent care are spent correctly. The real problems faced by rural plans as well as by urban providers must be addressed as should Medicare's role in paying to train our nation's physicians.

Form a Medicare commission. It may turn out that no matter how much is done, it still will not be enough to offset the long-term challenge we face with the retirement of the huge baby-boomer generation. If the president and Congress cannot agree on how to preserve Medicare long term, as a last resort, a bipartisan commission should be authorized. Sen. William Roth and Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan should be applauded for recently proposing legislation to establish such a commission. As the 1983 Social Security Commission demonstrated, a bipartisan commission can recommend sound long-term solutions. But if some politicians hope they can dodge the tough choices by creating a commission, I have news for you: It won't work. Creating a commission won't let you off the hook to enact needed Medicare changes now to avoid bankruptcy in 2001, and even the commission's recommendations to address the long-term problem will require members of Congress to vote on sticky issues and the president to sign or veto the legislation.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TAX FREE STADIUM BOND FINANCING

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to discuss the pending unanimous-consent request on the tax measure. I do so because of my concern about a matter which is pressing for my State, in a number of particulars, most specifically the Wilkes-Barre arena, where financing is being held up because legislation has been introduced by Senator MOYNIHAN, which has an effective date on the date of committee action, and bond counsel have, as I understand it, given an opinion that industrial development bonds cannot be issued from the State.

After discussing the matter with Senator MOYNIHAN, it is my understanding that he is concerned about the statutory limits on other tax-exempt bonds, which would affect hospitals and universities. It is a relative rarity that a tax bill comes through the Senate. This is an occasion where I would have an opportunity to introduce an amendment to try to move this process along. I am well aware of the fact that this is an important measure which needs to be cleared through the Senate. But I wanted to take this opportunity—and I have so advised our distinguished majority leader of my intention—when the unanimous-consent request is propounded, to reserve the right to object to see if we might get

some sort of a schedule for consideration of the underlying issues here.

I note the presence of the distinguished majority leader on the floor. I await his action on propounding the unanimous-consent request. I take advantage of this break in the action to state my position.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, with my apologies to the Senator from Pennsylvania, was there anything I needed to respond to at this juncture, or would you like to go ahead with the unanimous-consent request?

Mr. SPECTER. If I may respond to the majority leader, there is nothing for him to respond to.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. J. Res. 1

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I just had a discussion with the Democratic leader with respect to the pending balanced budget constitutional amendment. This agreement would allow the Senate to conclude the matter on Tuesday, March 4. Having said that, I now will propound a unanimous consent for final disposition of the constitutional amendment.

I ask unanimous consent that the time between 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday and 12:30 be equally divided between the two managers for closing remarks on Senate Joint Resolution 1. I further ask that, at 2:15 on Tuesday, there be 1 hour under the control of the manager on the Democratic side of the aisle, with the first 20 minutes under the control of Senator BYRD, to be followed by the next hour under the control of Senator HATCH, to be followed by the next 30 minutes under control of Senator DASCHLE, or his designee, with the final 30 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

I further ask that following the conclusion or yielding back of time, a vote occur on the passage of S.J. Res. 1 at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, and that paragraph 4 of rule XII be waived and all occur without intervening action.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, the majority leader and I have had the opportunity to discuss this matter, and I concur with the unanimous-consent request, with the understanding—which we have discussed—that if there is a family emergency or an illness that would preclude a Member from having the opportunity to vote on such an important issue as this, that we would revisit the issue. I don't anticipate that. I expect 100-percent attendance. And, as I say, we have had that understanding in our discussion also. So I do not object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I could just comment on the Democratic leader's comments of a moment ago. First of all, I think we have had a good and full debate on this issue. I said from the beginning that I hoped we would do

that, and that it would be a thoughtful and provocative debate that would cause Members to think seriously about this issue. I think that has happened.

There has been some suggestion that we put it off, and I thought about that. If there were some reason to do that, I would be willing to delay it further. But I think we should be ready to vote. We have had amendments and the debate, and we would be prepared to do that, then, on Tuesday under this agreement. But, as always is the case, we need to be aware of and respectful of extenuating circumstances beyond our control. I will join the Democratic leader in moving the vote to the next morning, or whatever, if we have that need, based on a genuine illness or family problem that could not be avoided.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that in the event a motion to reconsider the final passage vote is entered, and the motion to proceed and the motion to reconsider are agreed to, then at that time Senate Joint Resolution 1 be debatable.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the Senate will close the debate on the Monday or the Tuesday session of the Senate with a final passage vote occurring on the constitutional amendment at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4.

I thank my colleagues for their cooperation and announce that no votes will occur on Friday of this week or Monday, March 3.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

INVESTIGATE CONGRESSIONAL ABUSES

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today on the front page of the Washington Post there is a story that I think should not simply slide by the concern and consideration of all our colleagues in the Senate. The headline is, "GOP Senators Seek To Curb Panel's Fund-Raising Probe."

The heart of the story is a basic expression, on behalf of some Senators, that they only want to focus on President Clinton. They do not want an investigation that somehow looks into the activities of the Congress itself.

I know the Congress is plenty good at taking care of itself. Through history it has proven that. But the American people will not be satisfied with such