

## RECESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now stand in recess until 4:45 p.m. today.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:18 p.m., until 4:44 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. THOMAS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader is recognized.

## RECESS

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in recess until the hour of 5 o'clock.

There being no objection, at 4:45 p.m., the Senate recessed until 5 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. ENZI).

Mr. CRAIG addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Idaho.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

## VISIT TO THE SENATE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now go into recess for 5 minutes for the purpose of receiving the President of Egypt, President Mubarak.

[Applause.]

## RECESS

There being no objection, at 5:07 p.m., the Senate recessed until 5:12 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. ENZI).

## UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—NOMINATION OF FEDERICO PEÑA

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 9:30 on Wednesday, March 12, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Federico Peña to be Secretary of Energy, and it be considered under the following agreement: The first 30 minutes under the control of Senator GRAMS; 10 minutes equally divided, then, between the chairman and the ranking member of the committee; and that following the conclusion or yielding back of that time, the Senate proceed to vote on the confirmation without any intervening action or debate.

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

## AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Senate continued with consideration of the resolution.

Mr. WARNER. 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. LOTT. 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. LOTT. Mr. President, at the beginning, I thank all concerned for the efforts that have been put into coming to this agreement, especially the Democratic leader. There has been a lot of discussion involving Senators on both sides of the aisle and all the different committees involved. I think this is the right thing to do and we can move on, then, with the proper investigation, in a bipartisan way.

## UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Glenn amendment No. 21 be withdrawn, and the committee substitute, as amended, be agreed to.

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

The amendment (No. 21) was withdrawn.

The committee substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT. I further ask unanimous consent that there be 1 hour equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with an additional 10 minutes under the control of Senator SPECTER—I want to emphasize that I presume that time will be 30 minutes on our side, under the control of Senator THOMPSON, and 30 minutes on the other side, under the control of Senator GLENN—and following the conclusion or yielding back of the time, the Senate proceed to vote on adoption of Senate Resolution 39, as amended, without further action or debate, and that the vote occur at 6:30 p.m. this evening.

Mr. DASCHLE. Reserving the right to object, let me just use this opportunity to thank the majority leader and all of his senior leadership on the committees, as well as the leadership on our side, Senator GLENN, Senator LEVIN, and certainly Senator FORD, and all of those responsible for bringing us to this point. This has not been easy. This has been a matter that has divided us for too long a period of time.

For us now to be able to come together on this matter, I think, is a good omen. I am very appreciative of the contribution made by so many colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and I hope that with unanimity we can support this request this afternoon.

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

Mr. LOTT. Let me add, Mr. President, I had intended to offer an amendment this afternoon to the resolution calling for the appointment of an independent counsel. However, I had agreed earlier with the Democratic leader to withhold that until at least this Thursday to allow the Judiciary Committee to discuss the issue of appointment of independent counsel and see if there is some way that a bipartisan agreement could be reached there, also.

In view of that commitment that I believe we basically entered into a week ago, I felt it was important that I keep that commitment, and therefore we will withhold action until we see what comes out of the Judiciary Committee on the independent counsel issue.

Mr. DASCHLE. If I could, Mr. President, indicate that we had intended to offer an amendment dealing with a date certain for taking up campaign finance reform, and obviously because we have made so much progress on this issue and because the majority leader has indicated his desire to work with us on the issue of an independent counsel, as well, we will defer that until another time and another circumstance. We are not intending at this point to offer legislation which would direct the Senate in that regard.

I appreciate, again, the cooperation and consensus that we have been able to work out on both sides on both these matters.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I yield myself 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I think that we have made substantial progress. In fact, I think remarkable progress. I cannot express the extent of my delight in the cooperation we have seen here in the last few hours in the U.S. Senate.

The minority leader is absolutely correct in that we have tended to get off track and we have done a little too much disagreeing and not enough coming together. What we have done now is, really, I think for the first time, focused on some of these issues. I think that many of our Members have not had the opportunity to really focus on the legal and procedural issues and what some of these things will mean to us as we go down the road in trying to conduct an investigation. I think Members on both sides, when you come right down to it, and they stop and think about it and focus on these issues, really have a whole lot more in agreement than in disagreement.

I think we all want to see this investigation done in a fair manner, in a thorough manner, and as expeditiously as possible. That is what we tried to set out in January when I took the floor and tried to set out what I thought should be the scope of the investigation and where I thought we