

ACCESS TO THE SENATE WING OF THE CAPITOL

2nd & 3rd floors.—Access to the second and third floors of the Senate Wing of the Capitol shall be limited to Senators, Senate staff with appropriate Senate identification cards, press with appropriate credentials, Architect of the Capitol staff as necessary, those with Senate Rule XXIII privileges, those with special gallery tickets, those with regular Senate Gallery tickets when the bearer is admitted through tour lines, and anyone with official business related to the impeachment trial.

Architect of the Capitol.—The Architect of the Capitol shall advise the Sergeant at Arms of all Architect staff who require access to the Senate Wing.

Sergeant at Arms.—The Sergeant at Arms shall enforce the above provisions and take such other actions as necessary to fulfill his responsibilities.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand that many Members will want to comment on the impeachment proceedings in the Senate. Others will want to comment on the fact that this is their first day as Senators, and perhaps even discuss what they hope to achieve in the year ahead. Others will want to talk about agenda items. With that in mind, I ask unanimous consent that the next 2 hours be equally divided between the two leaders, or their designees, for statements only regarding impeachment or other general business of their desire, and following that period, the majority leader, or his designee, be recognized by the Chair.

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

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

Mr. LOTT. I will be glad to yield to the assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. It is my understanding both the majority and Democratic leaders are going to make statements regarding impeachment and that will be in addition to this time, is that right?

Mr. LOTT. We would have the leaders' time. Certainly we would both want to accommodate the other in any parameters we would want to outline today.

Mr. REID. There is no objection to the consent request.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I believe the President has some appointments to be read by the Chair?

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 95-521, reappoints Thomas B. Griffith as Senate Legal Counsel, effective January 3, 1999, for a term of service to expire at the end of the 107th Congress.

The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 95-521, appoints Morgan J. Frankel as Deputy Senate Legal Counsel, effective

as of January 3, 1999, for a term of service to expire at the end of the 107th Congress.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send two resolutions to the desk appointing the Senate legal counsel and deputy legal counsel and ask they be considered en bloc and agreed to en bloc and they be printed in the RECORD separately.

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

REAPPOINTMENT OF SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the first resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 9) to make effective reappointment of Senate Legal Counsel.

The resolution was considered and agreed to as follows:

S. RES. 9

Resolved, That the reappointment of Thomas B. Griffith to be Senate Legal Counsel made by the President pro tempore this day is effective as of January 3, 1999, and the term of service of the appointee shall expire at the end of the One Hundred Seventh Congress.

REAPPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the second resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 10) to make effective reappointment of Deputy Senate Legal Counsel.

The resolution was considered and agreed to as follows:

S. RES. 10

Resolved, That the reappointment of Morgan J. Frankel to be Deputy Senate Legal Counsel made by the President pro tempore this day is effective as of January 3, 1999, and the term of service of the appointee shall expire at the end of the One Hundred Seventh Congress.

Mr. LOTT. 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. 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.

A SENSE OF HOPE AND OPTIMISM

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, for those of us granted the rare privilege of representing our citizens as United States Senators, the convening of a new Congress is a moment filled with hope and optimism. I know this is a sentiment shared by my colleagues who have served here together for

many years; I am equally certain it is a feeling in the heart of every new member whom we welcome into the Chamber today.

We all choose to enter public service in the belief that small differences made every day somehow contribute in large measure to the betterment of our national life. For me, this has always been a day that represented great promise and potential.

And despite the difficult circumstances that confront us on the first day of the 106th Congress, I choose to face the grim task of the impeachment proceedings with a sense of hope and optimism, too.

It is my sincere hope that we can continue to be guided in the Senate by a completely nonpartisan approach to our responsibilities—and I pledge the cooperation of the entire Democratic caucus in that effort. We remain optimistic that Republicans and Democrats in the Senate can come together on a sensible plan that adheres to the principles of fairness, expedition and due process.

The promise of bipartisan consensus is within our grasp. If we succeed in coming to closure on an acceptable resolution to govern these proceedings, then we have the potential for not only ending this unfortunate episode, but for laying a foundation for rebuilding a working coalition to address the critical policy issues that so demand our absolute attention.

But to complete the work at hand, we must first set some things aside. We must set aside our partisan instincts. We should reject any notion of political advantage in this process, and act solely in the national interest.

We must set aside feelings of grave disappointment and anger directed at the President for his actions. We must also set aside the resentment many feel over the manner and method of the long investigation that begat these articles of impeachment.

Regrettably, we must also set aside—until this matter is resolved—important legislative work on matters like education, health care, Medicare and Social Security. This, in and of itself, should serve to motivate us to proceed with deliberate dispatch on these articles, accepting not even a day's delay in the coming trial.

And finally, we should set aside the rancor and recriminations that have marked these sad deliberations, and rise to a level of dignity and decency that will be judged favorably in history's long light.

But we will not set aside our responsibility. We will not defer our duty.

Make no mistake: Senate Democrats will follow the Constitution. We intend to abide by the Senate's procedures. We will respect past precedents. We will duly consider these articles. We will insist on fair treatment of the President. And we will hear the evidence presented by the House Republicans who have made these charges.

But we should not put process ahead of progress in this matter. We must

find a way to resolve this, and move forward.

The United States Constitution is a document that continues to reveal an uncanny resiliency after two centuries. It's as if the framers found a formula to adapt to contingencies unseen; and to circumstances unknowable. Their wisdom in drafting the Impeachment clause affords us the opportunity to seize one of the options we are considering today. If we now simply apply some common sense, we will find common ground, and the result will be the common good.

I have faith in the Senate, and faith in my colleagues, that we will do so.

The Senate may never decisively resolve this maddening legal argument; but we must find a way to end this lingering national torment.

As do all my colleagues, I love this country. And I care deeply for this institution, the Senate of the United States. I want to do right by both. Working together, Republican and Democrat, I think we can.

Just as we have sworn an oath today to put the Nation's interests above all others, tomorrow when we are sworn as judge and juror, we must do the same. That will require absolute fairness, due process, deliberate speed, and a final resolution of these charges. The Democratic caucus is committed to each and every one of those goals, and is prepared to proceed immediately toward achieving them.

I yield the floor and 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. 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.

SENATE AGENDA

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I want to welcome all the Senators to the 106th Congress. We have had an all too brief and somewhat overwhelming interlude since the last day of the 105th Congress in October. That interval turned out to be dramatic and eventful in more ways than one, and because of events that occurred therein, the Senate's agenda for this year will be more important than ever.

We will soon be considering charges brought by the House of Representatives against the President of the United States. I cannot think of a more serious subject. Yet the Senate has its well-established procedures to deal with this situation. While it is not exactly routine, neither is it totally unique.

We have our responsibilities under the Constitution, and we will meet those responsibilities in an orderly fashion. That is why I have met several times and talked by phone other times with Senator DASCHLE, the Democratic

leader, and why the two of us have met with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, whose duty it is to preside over a Senate trial involving the President. We have both consulted and are still very actively involved in consulting with fellow Senators, with constitutional scholars, with officers of the Senate, in terms of the law and the rules of the Senate.

Our duty is clear: To demonstrate anew our national commitment to justice and fair play. That is what the public expects from us, regardless of their individual opinions concerning the President. That is why I am confident that is what they will receive. No Senator in this Chamber needs to be reminded that we are here first and foremost to serve the American people. Americans today look to the future with the same hopes that have inspired and sustained this country for more than 200 years. They want a better life for themselves and, more importantly, for their children. Not just economically, but also in terms of a decent future and a just and caring society.

I want to emphasize now that I have not gone to the media and outlined exactly how this impeachment process will go forward because no final conclusion has been made. This is not something that can be reported in an evolutionary way because there are too many things that have to be considered, too many different parties—Senate Republicans, Senate Democrats, House Members, the White House—and we have had to continue to consider the opinions of all to try to develop a fair way to have an expeditious trial that gets justice based on the rule of law. I think that it is more important that we hear from all parties and come to, hopefully, a conclusion that sets an outline of how we will proceed from beginning to end than it is to always be reporting on the current developments.

Never before have I had so much reported about what I was thinking, doing, or saying when I have said so little. I have been accused of being "holed up" in my hometown of Pascagoula, MS. Where would you expect me to be during the holidays? How about at home with my family and with my constituents, enjoying that precious season of the year.

However, I had no moss growing under my feet. I was talking with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, listening and thinking and developing and evolving a process that I think will get the job done. I believe we can very well achieve that goal within the next 24 hours—one that neither the House nor the White House will necessarily think is wonderful—giving all parties a fair chance to make the case and reach a conclusion that is equitable. We will get that done. And we will get it done, hopefully, in a relatively short period of time, without limiting it to a day or 3 days, or 3 weeks for that matter. It could very well take longer than that. But it will be a fair trial.

Then we have other very serious responsibilities that we must deal with.

It has been said as long as we are dealing with this issue that we can't deal with any other substantive issue in the Senate. Wrong.

We have responsibilities that go forward, and we will do our very best to have a dual track. Now, we may not be having debate and votes on the floor of the Senate on bills or on changes in the budget procedures around here, but we will begin to prepare. We will have our committee assignments all completed today. There will be committee hearings this week before the Judiciary Committee, before the Armed Services Committee, before the Education and Labor Committee—although it has a different name here in the Senate, I prefer to call it the Education Committee because it has that very important jurisdiction under its responsibilities.

We will begin the process and have hearings and meetings. Depending on how this process goes forward, and realizing that we have to understand the Supreme Court has a schedule that it has to comply with, which might give us some time to do some business, we will do our very best to get prepared for the regular legislative process while we are doing our duty with regard to impeachment.

But the goal that I hope we will move to immediately after the completion of the impeachment process, whenever that may be, is to develop some constant themes we want to work on during the 106th Congress. I think they can be described in words like these: security, responsibility, opportunity, and freedom. Now, those are not conflicting goals; they complement and support one another. Security, after all, enables responsibility; responsibility gives purpose to freedom; freedom ensures opportunity; and opportunity fosters security. When I talk about security, I think about security for my mother, security for my son and my daughter and my grandson. I think about health security, Social Security, national security, security in our neighborhoods. So that word encompasses an awful lot.

Our task is to advance on all four fronts this year: To enhance security, promote responsibility, strengthen freedom, and foster opportunity for all. In doing so, we face a tight schedule. We always do, but it is a manageable one if the Senators will help the leadership do our jobs. There are matters that we can consider promptly before our legislative committees even begin reporting major bills that must compete for a place and time on the Senate schedule.

One of the first matters we should take up is a clarification of Senate rules, to restore this institution's position regarding the consideration of authorizing legislation on appropriation bills. It is out of hand. The biggest fight now in all the appropriations bills occurs not on the appropriations but on amendments that are legislating on appropriations bill. I believe we can accomplish that change back to the way