

Senator BYRD's statement in the Chamber in December at the organizational meetings and the orientation of our new Members so that this tape will be available for historical and educational purposes.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 384) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 384

Resolved, That, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXXIII, the Senate authorize the videotaping of the address by the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. Byrd) to the incoming Senators scheduled to be given in the Senate Chamber in December 2000.

ORDER FOR STAR PRINT—S. RES.
379

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senate Resolution 379, as adopted by the Senate, be star printed with the changes that are at the desk.

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

DETERMINING A PRESIDENTIAL
WINNER

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I will make one comment at this point, and that is, this morning I had occasion to see Senator REID as he was passing by my office. We talked a little bit about history and the fact that the very office in the Capitol where I sit was where the House of Representatives met in 1801 to determine who would be President because there had been a tie in the election. The House of Representatives voted 36 ballots before they determined the winner by 1 vote to be Thomas Jefferson. He won over Aaron Burr. He went on to be one of the greatest Presidents in the history of our country. I leave that for a little thought for all concerned, and now worried, about what the future holds.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before the leader leaves the floor, it is my understanding Senator SPECTER wants to speak for about 10 minutes and then we can use up the rest of the time until 12:30. Is the leader expecting to recess at 12:30 and come back at 2:15 p.m.?

Mr. LOTT. That is my intent. While we may not have normal policy lunches, it is my intent to recess at 12:30 so we can have luncheons as a group or individually, and we will come back after the luncheons, I presume at 2:15. Hopefully, we will close the session by 2:30. I will want to make sure that Senator DASCHLE has been consulted on that and agrees with that.

Mr. REID. I say to the leader that when we do reconvene at 2:15, or maybe even by 12:30, I will be in a position to tell the majority leader how many on our side wish to speak. I know Senator

DASCHLE does. I know Senator DORGAN perhaps wants to speak. But I will, as soon as I learn, advise the staff and the Senator of how much time we will need.

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor, Mr. President.

Mr. SPECTER addressed the Chair.

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

MODERNIZING VOTING PROCEDURES IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to introduce legislation which would seek to modernize voting procedures throughout the United States in Federal elections. I do not intend to become involved in the current controversies but instead have been considering where we go from here in order to try to prevent the kind of concerns and problems which we have at the present time.

In Pennsylvania, I have had considerable comment from my constituents about the issue as to, in the electronic age, with computers available and with electronic devices available why do we have some sections of the country voting by paper ballot and why do we have a great variety of election procedures in voting, so that there is not uniformity and there is not a prompt count.

Looking at that issue, it seems to me that we can do much better on how we vote in Federal elections. The thought on my mind is Congress should address this issue at least as to Federal elections, leaving the matters of State and local elections to State officials under our Federalist concepts.

It is not really practical for someone to lay out an entire bill with the procedures to implement these objectives, but it seems to me—and I have been talking to some of my colleagues about it, and there are a number of Senators who are thinking in the same direction—that it will be useful to establish a commission which would take up the question of how we have election procedures which take advantage of computers and electronics so that votes may be tabulated accurately and promptly, and not have the kinds of issues which arose in our election on November 7.

I do, therefore, submit, Mr. President, the structure of a bill to establish a commission for the comprehensive study of voting procedures for Federal elections, to take a look at not only Federal elections but State and local elections as well, but with the purpose of finding a way to have accurate reporting, electronic reporting, and speedy reporting.

This bill is not in concrete. I am now soliciting cosponsors. I think we will have other cosponsors shortly. Since we have an abbreviated session today, with only a limited amount of time, I am introducing the bill at this time.

Mr. President, I will make just a comment or two about the electoral college.

As we have moved ahead with the concerns under the current contest between Governor Bush and Vice President GORE, I have found many of my constituents—and have noted comments in the media across the country—who are surprised about the way the electoral college works.

Illustratively, in my State of Pennsylvania, with 23 electoral votes, and Vice President GORE having received 51 percent of the vote and Governor Bush having received 47 percent, that Vice President GORE got all 23 of Pennsylvania's electoral votes.

In discussions I have found— candidly, a surprise to me—a fair amount of concern among my constituents about changing the electoral college. There is some confusion that any change in the electoral college may have some impact on the current contest between Governor Bush and Vice President GORE, which, of course, is not the case. This current election is going to be determined under the existing rules of the electoral college as it now stands. It seems to me that consideration ought to be given to a modification.

One approach would be to go to the popular election of a President. That appears to be unrealistic because there are so many smaller States which have only one Member of the House, two Senators, so they get three electoral votes. On a proportionate basis, they would be entitled to a 1-435th proportion in relation to the House, there being 435 Members of the House, but they have a 3-535th proportion, taking the House's 435 Members and the Senate's 100 Members. Since it takes a two-thirds vote to pass a constitutional amendment in the Congress, and ratification by three-fourths of the States, I think it is unrealistic to look to the popular election of a President.

But there is an alternative way where it might be achieved; that is, with a proportional representation. S.J. Res. 51 was introduced in the 96th Congress by Senator CANNON, cosponsored by Senators THURMOND, Goldwater, Harry Byrd and Talmadge, which provided for a constitutional amendment for proportional representation, which might be the way to go.

Illustratively, in a State such as Pennsylvania, with 23 electoral votes, and a vote split of 51 percent and 47 percent, it might be divided as 12 votes for Vice President GORE and 11 votes for Governor Bush. I think this is going to require further study.

I do think it is plain that the purpose of having the electoral college, as reflected in the Federalist Papers, was to provide a buffer between the common voter, who was thought at that time not to be sufficiently informed to directly elect a President. That, of course, was changed when we had a constitutional amendment providing for the direct election of Senators.

In the original Constitution, Senators were elected by the State legislatures, so that the common man did not