

that it is impossible to even produce it efficiently, cost effectively. Those are the kinds of things that I think very certainly need to be considered.

We have an act before us now. The chairman of the Energy Committee, Senator MURKOWSKI from Alaska, has put together a bill. I happen to be a cosponsor. It is a large bill that has to do with many of the things that are involved. I suspect there will be some changes in it before it is finally passed. I think it is a start, and I am very proud of what has been done there. It talks about protecting energy supplies, security for increasing efficiency, and the certification of pipelines. It has to do with technological research, advancing clean coal technology, alternative fuels, renewables, and conservation measures, just to name a few. It has to do with all kinds of things that would encourage us to have a clean, useful economic energy program in the United States to meet our needs.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALLARD). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Under the previous order, the time until 11:25 a.m. shall be under the control of the Senators from Minnesota. The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I thank the Chair. (The remarks of Mr. WELLSTONE and Mr. DAYTON pertaining to the introduction of S. 422 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENSIGN). The Senator from New York is recognized.

Under the previous order, the time until 11:40 a.m. is in morning business under the control of the Senator from New York.

(The remarks of Mrs. CLINTON pertaining to the introduction of S. 426, S. 427, S. 428, S. 429, S. 430, S. 431, and S. 432 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mrs. CLINTON. 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. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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.

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UNANIMOUS CONSENT  
AGREEMENT—S. 420

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I am very pleased to see the Presiding Officer in the chair this morning. I ask unani-

mous consent that at 1 p.m. on Monday, March 5, the Senate begin consideration of an original bill reported out of the Judiciary Committee yesterday, S. 420, regarding bankruptcy reform. I further ask unanimous consent that consideration on Monday be for debate only, to be equally divided in the usual form.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, I am wondering if the leader would consider changing the 1 p.m. time to 1:30 or 2.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I see no problem with that. I amend my request to indicate that we would begin at 2 p.m. on Monday, March 5 instead of 1 p.m.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Reserving the right to object, and I shall not, I first thank Senator REID and the majority leader for their good-faith discussion. I say to the majority leader, it is my understanding—and it is his word, which, to me, is enough—that the agreement we have, which is fine with me now, is that we will get started early next week, Monday afternoon, and that the majority leader is absolutely committed and intends for their to be full debate; Senators can bring substantive amendments out, and we will have a debate. That is what this agreement is about. We will move forward and we will have plenty of opportunity for important debate on this piece of legislation.

Am I correct that we will have the right to introduce amendments and have votes?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, absolutely. I know the Senator from Minnesota has more than one amendment he would want to have debated and considered and voted on. I presume there will be other Senators who may have amendments they would like to offer. I hope we can set reasonable time agreements so that at some point we will get a vote on the amendments and that we will move through the amendments and not have just one or two amendments tie up a day or days. Certainly, I believe both sides will act in good faith and will be reasonable, and we want a full debate and votes. We intend to proceed in that way.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I do not object. I thank the majority leader.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that all sponsors of S. 220 be considered as cosponsors on S. 420.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, next week we are going to get into some heavy lifting. This is a very important bill. There are a lot of amendments. For those in the press and others who have been wondering why we haven't been doing things, it is difficult early in the session to get to substantive matters. This is going to be some real substantive legislation. My friend from Minnesota has indicated he has a num-

ber of amendments to offer and others do. I look forward to some long days and a lot of good work next week on this bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, let me respond in this way: At the beginning of a new session, particularly with a new administration, you do have to have time to get amendments or bills produced. They have to work through committees. The committees have to get organized before they can begin reporting bills, plus a lot of time is spent on confirmations. I am glad we are ready now, though, to go to serious legislation.

Our colleagues should be on notice that the days probably will be long next week, and we will be having votes throughout the day Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, possibly even Friday. I can't project right now what will be required in that area. We may need to even go late in order to give Senators time to make their case on amendments and have votes. It is time to do that. I appreciate the help we have had in getting this bill ready for the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. Leader, I am wondering if I could also ask—we have had a number of inquiries from Democratic Senators—what is the rest of the day going to be like?

Mr. LOTT. Let me respond to that, Mr. President, in that I know we have some requests from Senators who would like to make remarks. We are still looking to see if there are additional nominations that might be cleared either by voice vote or recorded votes. We should have a fix on that within the next couple hours. We will announce that. It is not expected that we would have votes into the night or tomorrow. Whatever we are going to do, we will do within a reasonable hour today.

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

Mr. LOTT. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Under the previous order, the time until 12:30 p.m. shall be under the control of the Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I am not using that full 30 minutes, so if anyone else wishes the floor, they should come down at this time.

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TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate an important point in our history and that is the 165th anniversary of March 2, 1836, commonly known as Texas Independence Day.

Each year, I look forward to March 2. This is a special day for Texans, a day