

unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY PAUL O'NEILL ON BONUS DEPRECIATION AMENDMENT BEFORE THE SENATE

The economic stimulus bill under consideration in the Senate includes a 30% bonus depreciation provision which expires in one year. Senator Gordon Smith has introduced an amendment for consideration on the Senate floor that would make the same bonus depreciation available for 3 years. Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill made the following comment:

The short period of eligibility for new investment under the base proposal would result in no stimulus to the kind of job creating major projects that are fundamental to our growing economy. Under the base proposal, a project begun tomorrow must be completed by December 31 of this year to get any benefit. Senator Gordon Smith is right to propose an amendment extending the 30% bonus depreciation provisions to 3 years, so that more investment takes place and more jobs are created. Senator Smith's amendment greatly enhances the job creation that will be generated by the bonus depreciation provisions under consideration in the Senate.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I want to do this in concert with the majority. But I am asking for the yeas and nays and am anxious to know at what point either Senator can get a vote.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are in the process of getting consent on the Senator's matter and other matters for tomorrow. I think we will be able to work it out soon.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. I thank my friend from Nevada.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. 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. REID. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Friday, January 25—tomorrow—the time until 10:30 a.m. be equally divided and controlled for debate with respect to the Smith of Oregon amendment; that at 10:30 a.m. the Senate vote in relation to the amendment, with no intervening amendment in order prior to the disposition of the Smith amendment; further, that on Friday the next amendment be one offered by the majority leader or his designee regarding unemployment insurance; that following the presentation of that amendment, and a brief explanation, the amendment be temporarily laid aside and that Senator BOND or his designee offer the next Republican amendment regarding small business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. 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. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that following the disposition of the amendment of Senator Smith tomorrow morning, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar Nos. 644 and 645; that there be 10 minutes for debate equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, and there be 10 minutes for debate under Senator HARKIN's control, and upon the use or yielding back of time the Senate vote on each nomination; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, any further statements thereon be printed in the RECORD, and the Senate return to legislative session.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent to order the yeas and nays on both nominations with one show of seconds.

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

Mr. REID. I do ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for a period not to exceed 10 minutes each.

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

GUANTANAMO, CUBA

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, tomorrow a small bipartisan delegation, of which I will be part, will go to Guantanamo, Cuba to see for ourselves directly the questioning process in trying to elicit information from the detainees, the unlawful combatants, the prisoners, whatever you want to call them.

I think in a lot of the commentary that has come out about this—and this is one of the reasons I want to go; I

want to see for myself how these detainees are being kept and how the process goes about trying to elicit information from them—it seems what we call them and the question of humane treatment is certainly a legitimate question, but I can't imagine, although I will see for myself tomorrow, that the United States is not giving anything but humane treatment. That is the character, that is the nature of our people. And certainly with as much attention on Guantanamo, it is certainly going to be the case of humane treatment.

What I want to find out is, are we getting information? We are in a war against terrorists. Many of these detainees are suspected to be some of the most ruthless and lethal of the terrorists. Therefore, we need to get as much information from them as we can in order to help prevent the kind of tragedies that this Nation went through on September 11.

As we survey the situation—and I have been to Guantanamo Naval Base years ago—I am quite interested to see how we are going about the process of eliciting this information from them.

Interestingly, there are a few other detainees in Guantanamo, not many in number, but very important to us in this country. There are eight Haitians detained for immigration reasons. There are 27 Cubans detained because of the policies of administrations, both past and present, that in enforcing the immigration laws do not allow anyone from a foreign land just to come to the United States; thus, intercepted on the high seas, be they Haitians or Cubans, certainly small in number but important in each of their cases.

In most of the cases of the Cuban detainees, 25 of the 27 have already been interviewed and determined that they are eligible to go to a third country. They do not want to return to Cuba. They are not eligible to come to the United States—the process of finding a third country that will receive them. I want to see firsthand for myself and talk to some of these people to see that each one of them, both the Haitian group and the Cuban group, have that personal attention. I will have a followup with our staff to see that that process is carried on in an orderly and prompt fashion.

This trip tomorrow is a direct result of having just been with a delegation of a total of nine of us into central Asia, including Afghanistan. What we saw there—and I gave a report to the Senate yesterday and I will not repeat it; it was an optimistic report reflecting the enthusiasm and the determination expressed in the faces of our young people, our young men and women in uniform serving our country in that part of the world and serving very successfully.

As a followup to that, at the end of that trip, it started occurring to a number of us, bipartisan, that we wanted to make this trip to Guantanamo.