



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 150

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2004

No. 126—Book II

Senate

INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who seeks recognition?

The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, everybody should stay where they are. We are going to have a vote in a few minutes, unless something goes awry. In the next 3 or 4 minutes, there will be a vote.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

(The remarks of Mr. DASCHLE pertaining to the introduction of S. 2938 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

AMENDMENT NO. 3994

Mr. REID. What is the matter now before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chambliss-Kennedy amendment No. 3994.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator reconsider?

Mr. CHAMBLISS. I withdraw that request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3994.

The amendment (No. 3994) was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. KENNEDY. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3995

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the pending business is the Bayh amendment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I can make a suggestion, there are negotiations that need to take place on the Bayh amendment that has been offered. I respectfully suggest that there are two important meetings that are going to take place: one we are having and one the Republicans are having. I am wondering if it wouldn't be in the best interest of all—1 o'clock is the filing deadline for amendments—that the Senate stand in recess from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I will not object to that request—in fact, I agree to it—but I also want to make the point that one of the most important amendments we anticipate is an amendment by Senator MCCAIN. I know earlier he had contacted us indicating he wanted to come over and offer it. Since we will be in recess under the consent agreement Senator REID is going to offer from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., it is my hope Senator MCCAIN will be able to come over and offer that at 2 p.m. and we can get that in the queue.

Mr. REID. I make that request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to a request for a recess from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.? Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

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

The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 5 minutes.

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

USING INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE FACILITIES TO REGISTER NEW VOTERS

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I wish to speak briefly about an article that was in yesterday's Washington Post that I thought raised a very disturbing issue of which the Senate needs to be aware. The article is entitled "Indian Health Agency Barred New-Voter Drive." I will read a couple of paragraphs from the article so that people understand the issues.

It says:

Officials at a federal program that runs hospitals and clinics serving Native Americans this summer prohibited employees from using those facilities to sign up new voters, saying that even nonpartisan voter registration was prohibited on federal property.

Staff members at several Indian Health Service hospitals and clinics in New Mexico, a presidential battleground state where about one-tenth of the population is Native American, were trying to register employees, patients and family members who use the facilities.

In a July e-mail, Ronald C. Wood, executive officer of the program's regional Navajo office, told his hospital and clinic directors that "we are in a very sensitive political season" and he outlined a policy that he said came from Indian Health Service headquarters.

"There have been some recent questions about whether we can do nonpartisan voter registration drives in our IHS facilities during non-duty hours". . . "The guidance from HQs staff is that we should not allow voter

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S10631