

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following the vote on the Lute nomination, there be 10 minutes equally divided between Senators LEAHY and SPECTER, or their designees, for debate on judicial nominations; that at the conclusion or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on confirmation of Executive Calendar Nos. 85, 105, and 106, in that order; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table; the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, Senator WARNER asked earlier today what would happen with the next judge, which is a Virginia judge. It would be my intent—I have to talk to Senator LEAHY, and I have a meeting with him this afternoon—that we do that on Monday, the day we get back. We will do the Virginia judge and the remaining district judges. So there will be four votes on the Monday we get back on the district court judges.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, if the leader will yield for a question, those three additional judges you made reference to are the three Michigan district court judges?

Mr. REID. That is right. That is what we had left on the calendar.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 2316

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 182, H.R. 2316, Lobbying Disclosure; that all after the enacting clause be stricken, and the text of S. 1, as passed by the Senate on January 18, 2007, be inserted in lieu thereof; that the bill be read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table; that the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate with a ratio of 4 to 3, with the above occurring without intervening action or debate.

I would say to my distinguished colleague—my counterpart, Senator MCCONNELL—that it is my intent not to appoint the conferees until we get back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Reserving right to object, and I will not object, I was not on the floor Tuesday when the majority leader first brought this issue to the Senate floor. I was down at the White House. I am pleased he is ready to go to conference on lobby reform,

the first bill introduced in this Congress, S. 1, and passed with a vote of 96 to 2 almost 6 months ago, on January 18.

I am also encouraged the Democratic House finally decided to pass a bill after many months of stalling and excuses. However, before we agree to this unanimous consent request, I would like to engage my colleague in a brief colloquy to ensure minority rights are not trampled, as they were in the supplemental.

As the Senate will recall, the majority drafted that bill and included matters not related to troop funding and not part of either bill. This was designed, obviously, to get around 41 Republican Senators here in the Senate. Obviously, putting those items in a troop funding bill made it very difficult to oppose the bill and we know how that story ended.

In that vein, I ask my good friend, the majority leader, to commit that, consistent with the provisions of S. 1—to commit not to drop extraneous provisions into this conference report not dealt with by either body. I think it is important that this very significant issue, on which we have had extraordinary bipartisan cooperation, continue to deal with the subject matter related to this bill.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I don't wish to relegislate the supplemental. I think it was one of the best things that has happened to the country in a long time. We were able to get some things in that bill, such as minimum wage, for the first time in 10 years; disaster relief for farmers, first time in 3 years; the first time we got money over and above what the President wanted for homeland security; we were able to get \$6.5 billion for Katrina.

Having said that, the distinguished Republican leader has my assurance this bill will deal with the subject matter that came out of the Senate and out of the House. It will deal with ethics and lobbying reform.

I further say to my friend, and he and I have had long discussions on this bill and I am sure we will continue to have some, this will be a real conference, as we have had for many years—not recently, but this will be a conference where there will be public debate on what we should do and what we should not do.

We will schedule that the week we get back, schedule the conference as soon as we can when we appoint conferees. There has been a request we not appoint them today. I accept that. We will do it when we get back. The minority need not worry. This legislation, when it comes back, will be perfect for the President to sign if, in fact, that is necessary. In some instances, it is not necessary. But it will deal with ethics and lobbying and nothing else.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I have one phone call to my cloakroom I have to deal with. I respectfully re-

quest that we have a very short quorum call, so I can consult with one of my Members. If the majority leader will not object, I would like to have a very brief quorum call.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam 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. It is my understanding there is a unanimous consent pending.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct. Is there objection to the request?

Mr. DEMINT. Reserving the right to object, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. DEMINT. Madam President, earlier this year, the Senate took a major step in being more transparent with the earmarking process. We worked together. We passed within the lobbying/ethics reform bill transparency and rules that would keep us from adding secret earmarks when we go to conference. I have asked repeatedly on the Senate floor that we accept that as a rule. I had asked the majority leader to amend his unanimous consent request to go to conference to include Senate acceptance of the rules we have already passed. That way we would have the comprehensive work we have all planned to have. I understand from the majority leader they are not willing to accept that, and they want to go to conference where it is our belief it will be significantly changed.

In light of our inability to come up with agreement that would include earmark disclosure, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Again, we have delay, delay, delay, on an issue of vital importance. What we are asking is to go to conference. We have already acknowledged there will be nothing that will come out of conference other than what is in this bill. For us to do the conference out here on the Senate floor is a little unusual proceeding. All the conference committees I have been involved in have been ones where the conferees decide what should happen, and then they bring that matter back to the respective bodies. Then there is a vote on it.

If my friend from South Carolina doesn't like what comes back, he has every avenue within the rules at his disposal. No one is trying to take advantage of him. I appreciate the work he has done on earmarks. A number of other people have worked on earmarks. It has been a progressive step forward. But it would not say much about my leadership if we negotiated it out here