

that we are going to stop legislating tonight and come back tomorrow, come in at 10 o'clock. We will go immediately to the bill. There are a number of amendments pending. Other Senators want to offer amendments.

The main reason I look forward to tomorrow is there are a number of Republican Senators working with Democratic Senators trying to come up with an alternative proposal. Now, I hope something works out. I know everyone is trying in good faith to move this ball down the court. But I think we need the night and some time tomorrow to see if we can do that. There is paper floating back and forth that is becoming filled with numbers, and we all need to take a look at this.

The work done by the negotiators, as I indicated earlier—about eight Republicans, about the same number of Democrats, trying to work toward making this a better piece of legislation—is ongoing. If, in fact, we find tomorrow that we are spinning our wheels, cannot get something done, then we will file cloture and have a Sunday cloture vote.

Now, Mr. President, I am optimistic we can get something done, and I hope that, in fact, is the case. Everyone is going to have to give a little and understand that this is a process where we have to move this ball down the court. The Republican leader has indicated to me that if we get this out of here, we should go to conference. I agree with him. That takes a little bit of time, and I would hope we could complete this legislation tomorrow. I have hopes, and I am cautiously optimistic we can do that.

So I wish I had all the answers, but the answers are not here tonight. I think the answers have been coming forth more rapidly in the last few days. I think staying here later tonight would not benefit us. We have a number of amendments we could dispose of, but I think we are waiting for the big amendment that has been worked on now for all this week.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, will the majority leader yield for an inquiry?

Mr. REID. I will be happy to.

Mr. McCONNELL. Then am I correct in assuming we would continue to process other amendments tomorrow—

Mr. REID. Absolutely.

Mr. McCONNELL. Because there are a number over here, and I understand you have some as well—while these discussions are going on?

Mr. REID. Yes. We will come in at 10 o'clock. The managers of the bill should be here. We will go directly to the legislation. There will be votes. We could have votes early in the morning because there are amendments right now pending that the manager on this side could move to table, setting up a string of votes. But the answer to the Republican leader is, yes, we will process amendments.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

HEALTHY AMERICANS ACT

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I cosponsored Senator WYDEN and Senator BENNETT Healthy Americans Act last year to support a legitimate bipartisan effort that combines “private markets” and “universal access.” I am willing to do so again this year, because health care reform is too big of an issue for one party to tackle on its own. Our only chance of achieving true, meaningful reform is if both parties work together.

However, I do have reservations about this legislation—I see it as a work in progress and would not vote for it in its current form. For example, the current budget figures are unrealistic. In order to maintain budget neutrality, as drafted, the bill would shift a new burden on middle-income Americans. We have not yet discovered a way to solve this problem without increasing the cost of the bill.

Another problem I have with the bill is that the mandated level of standard benefits is too high. As drafted, typically young, healthy Americans would be forced to pay for a richer level of coverage than they might now choose or possibly be able to afford.

I commend the efforts of Senators WYDEN and BENNETT to reach across party lines on this important issue, and look forward to working with both of them to further improve this proposal.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES PITCHFORD

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I would like to pay tribute to a staff member who left over the recess to pursue new opportunities.

James Pitchford—known to all of us as Pitch, is a hard-charging marine who will never cease and desist until told to do so when he is on a mission. And his mission is and always has been to serve his country, the men and women in the military, and his family.

As a former Wisconsin Air National Guardsman, naval aviator, marine aviator, and current naval reservist, I am still trying to figure out when he's going to sign up for the Army and put a check in the final square.

Pitch served on my staff for 10 years. In that time, he was a tireless, and I do

want to stress tireless, advocate for the men and women in uniform and the retirees and veterans that have served this Nation so valiantly.

He helped me establish a counter-improvised explosive device center at Fort Leonard Wood. This facility has saved lives and will continue to do so by providing critical training to Army personnel for countering explosives hazards and providing countermine working dogs that were not previously available.

He was a lead staffer on the National Guard Empowerment Act, a top priority for Senator LEAHY and me as co-chairs of the Senate National Guard Caucus. Provisions were enacted that strengthen the Guard's position within the Pentagon and its decisionmaking power.

He worked to improve health care for the Nation's service members and veterans, particularly those suffering from “invisible injuries” such as post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

He worked to keep the F-15 and F/A-18 lines in operation, for the benefit of the Air Force, Navy, and St. Louis workers.

He was a strong advocate for military families, our heroes here at home, and particularly the Heroes at Home Program.

There is much more to Pitch's credit legislatively and in fighting or prodding the bureaucracy, depending on which was appropriate at the time.

In addition to Pitch's innumerable legislative endeavors, he was also a leader on the staff.

He took an interest in each and every staff member and mentored all of the young staff with whom he came into contact.

He actively recruited people to work in the office, and once here, actively recruited them to be members of the Armed Forces.

He took an interest in the personal lives of staff members and volunteered his time as office liaison to the Senate Chaplain's Office.

We are also grateful to Pitch's children, his son Benjamin and fraternal twin daughters, Olivia and Kate, of Wisconsin, who endured long separations from their father while he worked to serve the State of Missouri and the Nation as well as U.S. forces and military veterans.

Pitch feels strongly, and I agree, that small business owners should be encouraged to bring their innovative technologies to our Nation's service men and women to reduce their risk of injury or death as they carry the fight to America's enemies. In his new life, he will continue to pursue this high priority in the private sector.

We are sorry to see Pitch go, but we thank him for his many years of service and wish him all the best in his many endeavors.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF
HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL USA

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, today I recognize the Hostelling International USA for 75 years of service to intercultural understanding and youth travel.

Hostelling International USA is a nonprofit organization founded in 1934 to promote hostels and hostel-related programs in the United States. Today hostels across the country host nearly 1 million overnight stays by both domestic and foreign travelers. In doing so, it promotes cultural exchange through travel, supports tourism in small and large communities throughout the country, and makes travel available on very limited funds.

Hostels make travel safe and affordable for young and old. Hostelling International boasts more hostel rooms than most hotel chains and offers a unique experience in friendly and varied surroundings. Instead of staying in a standardized hotel room every night, travelers in a hostel have the opportunity to share a meal and engage with fellow travelers from every nation and cultural tradition they can imagine. It is these shared experiences and the unexpected encounter that makes hostelling such a unique and valuable experience for travelers across the country and around the world.

In my home State of New Mexico Hostelling International has operated hostels in Las Vegas, Silver City, Truth or Consequences, and Datil. Today their hostel in Taos offers travelers the opportunity to experience the majestic beauty of the New Mexico landscape and the unique culture of Taos pueblo, as well as a little celebrity sighting. These hostels have exposed New Mexico to a variety of travelers who, I am certain, will never forget their experiences in the Land of Enchantment.

I commend Hostelling International for their work in the last 75 years and hope that they look forward to at least another 75 years with an increasing number of hostels and travelers around the world. •

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:34 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. R. 738. An act to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H. R. 738. An act to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. DORGAN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. Res. 28. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. KERRY, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. Res. 30. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF
COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEVIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Michele A. Flournoy, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

*Robert F. Hale, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller).

*Jeh Charles Johnson, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of Defense.

*William J. Lynn, III, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND
JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 384. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2010 through 2014 to provide assistance to foreign countries to promote food security, to stimulate rural economies, and to improve emergency response to food crises, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 385. A bill to reaffirm and clarify the authority of the Comptroller General to audit and evaluate the programs, activities, and financial transactions of the intelligence community, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. KAUFMAN):

S. 386. A bill to improve enforcement of mortgage fraud, securities fraud, financial institution fraud, and other frauds related to federal assistance and relief programs, for the recovery of funds lost to these frauds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 387. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 211 South Court

Street, Rockford, Illinois, as the "Stanley J. Roszkowski United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BOND, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. KERRY, Mr. ENZI, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. COBURN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BURR, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 388. A bill to extend the termination date for the exemption of returning workers from the numerical limitations for temporary workers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BENNETT:

S. 389. A bill to establish a conditional stay of the ban on lead in children's products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 390. A bill to expand the authority of the Secretary of the Air Force to convey certain relocatable military housing units to Indian tribes located in Idaho and Nevada; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. INOUE, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 391. A bill to provide affordable, guaranteed private health coverage that will make Americans healthier and can never be taken away; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND
SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. DORGAN:

S. Res. 28. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs; from the Committee on Indian Affairs; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. Res. 29. A resolution to limit consideration of amendments under a budget resolution; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. Res. 30. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Foreign Affairs; from the Committee on Foreign Relations; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 144

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 144, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove cell phones from listed property under section 280F.

S. 298

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 298, a bill to establish a Financial Markets Commission, and for other purposes.