

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:37 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair, and reassembled, at 4:24 p.m., when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. REID).

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Nevada, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in recess until 8:30 p.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:24 p.m., recessed until 8:30 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. TESTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009—Continued

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have worked very hard this week. It is not often the Senate is in session this time of night on a Saturday or this time of night most any time, but we have had a long hard week and spent many hours trying to come up with an answer to America's financial troubles.

Yesterday at 5 or 6 o'clock, we reached an agreement with a few of the Republicans to come up with a nice piece of legislation that will meet President Obama's request for resources in different areas that will help our economy. The main direction is tax cuts. People are needful of money. That money will be spent. And about 58 percent of it is job creating.

Why are we here tonight if the agreement was basically reached yesterday? It is because we have a bill that is about 800 pages long. This product we have produced is about \$800 billion. We put it together yesterday starting about 4:30 p.m. Everything has to be right. We don't want a problem, anyone raising an issue that one of the numbers is wrong or one of the lines is not where it should be. So for the last 35, 40 hours, people have been working non-stop to get a product so we could lay down the amendment, and that should be done in the next half hour or so. But people have literally worked all night.

Mr. President, you and I are out here. We are two of the one hundred. They can recognize us. They have little pictures. They can see us. The people who

are making this product we can lay down are people you do not see very much. The enrolling clerks, you don't see them very much. They are in the bowels of the Senate someplace putting this together hours and hours at a time, being aided and assisted by other members of this wonderful staff we have.

The line down the middle of this aisle is what divides Democrats and Republicans, and tradition has it that the Republican staff is with the Republican Senators. But the problems we face with this deep recession we are in have nothing to do with Democrats and Republicans. It has everything to do with economic travails of the American people.

So those few people who are watching this proceeding on television or are in the galleries tonight are seeing a situation where there is not a lot of floor activity. But today, as every day when we are in session, so much of the work is done that is not in the camera lights. An extraordinary group of public servants is here to assigned positions. They do it with a smile. They treat the public and us so well. It is difficult to describe what a wonderful job they do.

Anyone out there listening to these proceedings or watching these proceedings should know we have police officers who are guarding the Capitol. That is something that has not always been. As a young man, I was here. I worked this shift 6 days a week as a police officer and went to school in the daytime. In those days, as a police officer, we didn't have much to worry about. We had to make sure traffic on Constitution Avenue and Independence Avenue moved OK, but that was about it. But now the police officers are the best trained police officers in the world, a force of almost 2,000 watching and protecting this Capitol, not only all the people who work within these buildings but also the millions of tourists who come here every year. We have evil people around the world who every day are trying to figure out ways to violate the Capitol, and we have these brave men and women protecting us.

We have doorkeepers who make sure people who come into this Chamber are qualified and have the right credentials to do that. We have all the people in here—Chamber attendants, Parliamentarians. We have Journal clerks, legislative clerks, enrolling clerks, bill clerks, and floor staff on whom we depend. If the Presiding Officer is not presiding but is out here and has a question about something, most of them don't come to me, they come to the staff, each one of whom is so qualified and competent to answer questions about Senate procedure that Senators depend on them a great deal.

All the people I mentioned, and certainly a lot of others, are public servants in the true nature of that word. They serve all Members of the Senate. They get little, if any, recognition for what they do.

One of the groups I didn't mention at all is the valuable staff we have in the cloakrooms. There is a cloakroom to my right consisting of the Republican staff and to the back of me is the Democratic cloakroom. They are never seen. They are back in the cloakrooms. Every day we are in session, they come in about an hour before we start. They are here long after we leave, as are the people I mentioned. We depend on them, when there is a phone call, to look for us. Of course, they do that. They run through there, walk through there, find a page, bring a message to us. They do so many things that are invaluable to our being able to work here.

I extend to everyone I mentioned the appreciation of all Senators. We recognize that without any one of the groups I mentioned, any one of the attendants I have mentioned, if they are not here on a given day, we don't do very well. It is a team effort, and the example they set should be recognized.

Democratic and Republican staffs don't argue and fight. They get along very well. They have a product to produce and they do it. I think many times we can learn a lot from them how we can get along and produce more than perhaps what we have.

I thank everybody for their service, a job well done, and hopefully within the next little bit, we will have an 800-page bill in perfect form.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant Parliamentarian 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. 570

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Mr. REID. Mr. President, pursuant to the order before the Senate today, on behalf of Senators COLLINS and NELSON of Nebraska, I call up the amendment, which is now at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for Ms. COLLINS and Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, proposes an amendment numbered 570.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the Collins-Nelson of Nebraska amendment No. 570 to H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.