The amendment is as follows:
On page 2, line 5, strike “March of each year” and insert “March, 2000.”

Amend the title so as to read: “Resolution designating the month of March, 2000, as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month”.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to.

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

The amendment (No. 2786) was agreed to.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution, as amended, be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the title amendment be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and finally, that any statements related to the resolution be printed in the Record.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 108), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

[The resolution was not available for printing. It will appear in a future edition of the Record]

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. LEAHY. I wonder if the Senator from Maine would yield for one comment?

Mr. SPECTER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. LEAHY. Would the Senator from Pennsylvania yield for 30 seconds?

Mr. SPECTER. I would.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I commend the Senator from Maine. She has cleared out the Judiciary Committee docket to a fare-thee-well. A lot of the legislation was worked in a bipartisan manner. Winston Churchill said yesterday in a closed caucus that while the majority of the proposals were not familiar with the inside of the Senate, he was very challenging. I was discussing with my son last night the plan to have the Senate convene at 12:01 a.m., November 20, Saturday morning, to take up a cloture motion on the appropriations bill, and then to vote at 1:01 a.m. It was necessary to have the conversation because I had to defer lunch with my 4-year-old granddaughter, Perri, and picking up my 6-year-old granddaughter, Silvi, from school, all of which is fine, but there has to be some reason for that.

We have Senators exercising their rights which, to be repetitions, they have a right to do, such as to have bills read for several hours, which does not affect the ultimate outcome, or to have cloture votes with these extraordinary scheduling problems. I learned a long time ago that the Senate is a lot smarter than I am and the rules of the Senate are in place for a purpose.

As our distinguished colleagues said yesterday in a closed caucus, Senators ought not be discouraged from exercising their rights because when they take to the floor and debate, have a filibuster, and have extended discussions for the purpose of acquitting the country with what is going on, perhaps it may arouse some public reaction to perhaps change what the Senate might be doing.

So, in essence, I am delighted to see the Senate revived and rights to Senators activated. For whatever delay there is, so be it. It is my hope that next year the appropriations bill for my subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education will be completed at an early date. I have talked to our distinguished majority leader, Senator Lott, and I have had some encouragement that my bill may be taken up first next year, so that priorities can be established in regular course by the subcommittee, the full committee, and the Senate—the same on the House side—then conferred and presented to the President for his signature or for his veto. If he chooses to veto the bill, so be it.

The bill which was voted out of the Senate by a vote of 73-25 had been very carefully crafted on a bipartisan basis with my distinguished colleague from Iowa, Senator Tom HARKIN. I learned a long time ago that if you want to get anything done in Washington in the last week of the fiscal year, you have to be bipartisan. Senator HARKIN and I worked through our bill. We had a very attractive bill. We had emphasized $300 million more than the President’s figure on education, establishing the priorities which we thought were in order.

We had provided very substantial increases to the National Institutes of Health because of the great work done there in looking for cures and being on the verge of cures for very many major epidemics. We are within 5 years striking distance, so the experts say, on Parkinson’s and have made great progress on Alzheimer’s and heart disease and cancer/prostate cancer, breast cancer and cervical cancer.

We picked a figure of $30.7 billion because we thought that would attract very substantial bipartisan support, that being $300 million higher in education than the President had, that it would qualify for a President’s signature.

Regrettably, the House of Representatives did not pass the bill. In conference, the bill was substantially altered, being joined with the bill for the District of Columbia. It had an across-the-board cut of almost 1 percent. The bill was ultimately vetoed. Then it came back for reconsideration.

On reconsideration, the White House administration wanted to add some $2.3 billion more. I knew that would cause a major strain on the Republican side of the aisle, and there was a great deal of pressure to yield to the President because of the bad experience we had in December 1995 and early 1996 when the Government was closed down and the Republican-controlled Congress took the blame. The result is that the Congress is now gun shy to fight with the President, gun shy because, with his threatened veto, the Congress has a strong tendency to back down, perhaps not on every point—the family planning issue and the health care issues was a notable exception—but backing down on almost every point. The result has been that we are developing an imperial presidency because we have a gun-shy

FUNDING FOR DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to comment on the pending appropriations bill which includes funding for the three Departments of Health and Human Services, Education, and Labor. The subcommittee which I chair for the Appropriations Committee.

The legislative process has proceeded to this point in an extraordinary way.
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JOHN PORTER, chairman of the House subcommittee. Finally, we hammered out an agreement for 90 days—21 days for additional comments and 21 more days for a response to those comments. I had thought that closed the matter out and reported back to the leadership. The general rule is to leave these issues with the subcommittee chairman, and we have handled it out. I found out late yesterday that there is another bill with a 90-day extension. It is not possible to put a hold on the other measure, which is a conference report. There could be some delay, such as a reading of the bill, a vote for closure, but the result would be the same.

Let me say this to those who have increased the delay: It increases our tendency to get these regulations into effect. There is some thinking that there will be an authorization bill that is going to validate the regulations. I am not one for predictions, but I am prepared to make one here. There won’t be 60 votes for cloture. If that should be wrong, there certainly won’t be 67 votes to override a Presidential veto. George Shultz, when he was Secretary of State, once made a prophetic comment that “nothing is ever settled in Washington.” That very thing is true in Washington; he hit that right on the head. Nothing is ever settled in Washington. I thought the delay on the organ transplant issue had been resolved, but it wasn’t settled. George Shultz may be wrong; we may settle it with finality when this 90-day period expires.

In summary, the Congress will finally get the job done on this appropriations bill and finally move ahead on the bill from my subcommittee on funding the Departments of Health and Human Services and Labor and Education. I have given a brief thumbnail description as to what the pluses and minuses are. I will vote for it because the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. But it is my hope that we will learn from the experiences this year and do a much better job next year.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

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. SHELBY. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader I submit a report of the committee of conference.