with the most effective and worthwhile services their State agencies can pro-
vide.
Accountability is critical in any human undertaking. It provides an en-
vIRONMENT for those doing well to be commended and recognized. And, it
sheds light on those acting irresponsi-
ibly. We in Congress have the responsi-
ibility to see that taxpayer money is
spent wisely. I see a no more critical
responsibility than in ensuring States
are responsibly spending money on vul-
nerable youth in foster care.
November is National Adoption
Month. Earlier this month, I joined my
colleagues with the Congressional Coa-
lation on Adoption in celebrating those
who have made a difference through adoption. I was able to honor three
worthwhile individuals from the great
State of Iowa: Ruth Ann Gaines and
Jeff and Earletta Morris. Ruth Ann
adopted an autistic boy more than 14
years ago, and the Morrises adopted a
teenager just over a year ago. I am
grateful for their efforts and heartfelt
belief in the value of family, and I am
glad to announce them “Angels in
Adoption.”
In closing, I want to reaffirm my
commitment to finding permanent,
loving families for each boy and girl
currently without a loving and safe
home. I am disappointed the Foster
Care Independence Act did not contain
more provisions supporting perma-
nancy. However, I will continue my ef-
forts in support of permanency for chil-
dren in foster care. Among others, Con-
gresswoman NANCY JOHNSON has given
me her word that she will work with
me to improve accountability in the child
care system. I look forward to
working with all my colleagues in the
next session to that end.
Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask
unanimous consent that the Senate
turn to the resolution convening the
second session of the 106th Congress.
A resolution providing for the
reassembly of the Senate after the
adjournment of the Senate to reassemble prior to the
convening of the second regular session of the One hundred
Sixth Congress shall begin at noon on
SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL SESSION PRIOR TO CON-
VENING.
If the Speaker of the House of Repre-
sentatives and the Majority Leader of the Senate,
acting jointly after consultation with the
Minority Leader of the House of Representa-
tives and the Minority Leader of the Senate,
determine that it is in the public interest for
the Members of the House of Representatives and the
Senate to reassemble prior to the
convening of the second regular session of the
One Hundred Sixth Congress as provided in
section 1—
(1) the Speaker and Majority Leader shall
so notify their respective Members; and
(2) Congress shall reassemble at noon on the
second day after the Members are so no-
tified.
MEASURE PLACED ON THE
CALENDAR—S. 1982
Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask
unanimous consent that S. 1982 be
placed on the Calendar.
Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, on Decem-
ber 31, 1999, Steve Bale will retire as
Keeper of the Stationery for the United
States Senate.
Steve began his Senate career in No-
vember 1969 as a clerk in the Sta-
tionery Room. In July 1980, he was ap-
pointed Assistant Keeper of the Sta-
tionery, and in September 1987, as-
sumed the responsibilities as the 16th
Keeper of the Stationery.
In this capacity, Steve has directed a
busy operation, successfully serving a
client base that now spans over 240 of-
fices and five buildings. His leadership
of the recent renovations to the Sta-
tionery Room has ensured that the of-
cine will function efficiently, well into
the 21st century.
In his 30 years of public service.
Steve has set a standard among his as-
sociates for commitment to excellence
and dedication to personal service. Ac-
cording to his staff, one of Steve’s fa-
favorite expressions is, “In this business,
one ‘oops’ can wipe out fifteen
‘attaboys!’” The standard of excellence
he set will benefit the Senate for years
to come, as the associates he leaves be-
hind continue in the tradition of the
principles he espoused.
Steve Bale should enter his retire-
ment with tremendous satisfaction for
all he has accomplished. I am pleased
to join so many others in thanking him
to his long and faithful service and in
wishing him health and happiness in
the years to come.
Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, Steve
Bale is one of those individuals who
serve faithfully and diligently over
many years to ensure that the United
States Senate runs efficiently and ef-
fectively. All Senators know and appreci-
ate the members of the Senate com-
mittee who share their pride in public
service and commitment to the Senate.
We know we could not do our jobs
without the dedication of people such
as Steve Bale.
Steve began his career in the Senate
in 1969 as an employee of the Sta-
tionery Room under the jurisdiction of

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The
Chair announces on behalf of the chair-
man of the Finance Committee, pursu-
ant to section 8002 of title 26, U.S.
Code, the designation of the Senator
from Utah (Mr. HATCH) as a member of
the Joint Committee on Taxation, in
lieu of the late Senator from Rhode Is-
land (Mr. Chafee).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO FILE REPORTED LEGISLATIVE
AND EXECUTIVE MATTERS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask
unanimous consent that, notwithstanding the adjournment of the Sen-
ate, committees have from 11 a.m.
until 1 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7,
and on Friday, January 7, in order to
file reported legislative and executive
matters.

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

CONVENING THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE 106TH CONGRESS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask
unanimous consent that the Senate
convene the second session of the 106th Congress, House Joint Resolution 85, that the resolution be read a third time and
passed and the motion to reconsider be
laid upon the table, all without any in-
tervening action or debate.

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

The joint resolution (H.J. 85) was
read the third time and passed, as fol-
lows:

H.J. Res. 85
Resolved by the Senate and House of Repre-
sentatives of the United States of America in
Congress assembled,
SECTION 1. DAY FOR CONVENING OF SECOND
SESSION OF ONE HUNDRED SIXTH
CONGRESS.
The second regular session of the One Hun-
dred Sixth Congress shall begin at noon on
SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL SESSION PRIOR TO CON-
VENING.
If the Speaker of the House of Representa-
tives and the Majority Leader of the Senate,
acting jointly after consultation with the
Minority Leader of the House of Representa-
tives and the Minority Leader of the Senate,
determine that it is in the public interest for
the Members of the House of Representatives and the
Senate to reassemble prior to the
convening of the second regular session of the
One Hundred Sixth Congress as provided in
section 1—
(1) the Speaker and Majority Leader shall
so notify their respective Members; and
(2) Congress shall reassemble at noon on the
second day after the Members are so no-
tified.

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