

same with an amendment, and the Senate agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The report was printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of October 11, 2000.)

NATIONAL ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2000—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. I now move to proceed to S. 2557, regarding America's dependence on oil.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is debatable.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 114

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent when the Senate receives from the House the continuing resolution, the resolution be immediately considered, advanced to third reading and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, all without intervening action, motion, or debate.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, then, the Senate will have conducted its last vote for the day. We will adjourn shortly, although I understand there is one bill that is going to be taken up with some brief debate, and also there will be some debate on the bankruptcy issue. The Senate will not be in session on Friday, but the appropriations negotiators and others who are negotiating some policy decisions will be meeting tomorrow and throughout the week-end, if necessary.

The Senate will be in session on Monday, and I expect that there will be a period for morning business. Unless some procedural step is necessary regarding the bankruptcy bill, I do not expect any further announcements with regard to the schedule.

The Senate will next be in session after that on Tuesday. Therefore, votes could occur on Tuesday in an effort to wrap up the session of Congress. We do have four appropriations bills that need to be completed, and, one way or another, we also are looking at a tax package and, of course, bankruptcy, with a vote on cloture if necessary.

Later on, either tomorrow or Monday, we will notify Members jointly as to exactly when votes could be expected, but it will depend on when agreements are reached, when the conference reports are filed, and when the House acts because I think in each of these four instances the House would

have to act first. We will move on the bankruptcy, depending on what is happening on these appropriations bills and the tax package.

MORNING BUSINESS

I now ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WELLSTONE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, my understanding is we are on the bankruptcy bill, is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. No. We are on a motion to proceed to S. 2557.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I withdraw my objection.

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

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if the Senator from Minnesota will withhold for a moment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant minority leader.

Mr. REID. I wanted to ask the majority leader a couple of questions. I say to my friend, as he knows, there is some angst over here as to whether or not the people, especially from the West, have to travel back here on Tuesday.

We will have to know Monday night; otherwise, Senators have to catch planes early Tuesday morning to get back on time.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I say to Senator REID, we had to make a decision last Monday. Unfortunately, we did not immediately communicate with both sides of the aisle because it was late in the afternoon. We need to be in close touch. I will be here Monday. I know the Senator from Nevada will be. Once we see when the reports are filed and when these votes will be ready, we will be prepared to notify everybody as to when they can expect a vote.

It appears to me it is possible we could have one or more of these conference reports ready late Tuesday, but if it becomes apparent the House is not going to get it until late Tuesday or even late in the afternoon, we may want to make a conscious decision to go ahead and announce Monday those votes may not occur until Wednesday.

I think we need another day or perhaps the weekend to see if these agreements can be worked out between the House and Senate Republicans and Democrats and the White House and get the reports filed. It is impossible to say right now. I assume all Senators would like to get this work completed as soon as possible. If we can do it Tuesday and Wednesday, I presume

that is preferable, but if it is going to be Wednesday or Wednesday/Thursday, then obviously Senators want to know that. I will stay in close touch with Senator REID, and we will make those decisions and those announcements jointly, not later than Monday afternoon.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to my friend, if we knew sometime late Monday afternoon, 4, 5, even 6 o'clock, we could—

Mr. LOTT. I will be out here. I will see the Senator from Nevada on the floor. We will make those calls at that time and notify everybody so they at least have 24 hours' notice.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

BANKRUPTCY REFORM

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I am going to take a few moments. I know Senator KENNEDY is here on the floor, and I believe Senator FEINGOLD may be coming down as well. In any case, I want colleagues to know next week when we do get back to the bankruptcy bill, whenever it is, there are a number of Senators who are ready to speak on this bill and go into its substance.

I think the 100-0 vote is an indication that we do not mind going forward with the bill, but we do intend to speak about this legislation because the more people know about this legislation, the more likely Senators will vote against it. We certainly intend to have the debate, and if there is a cloture vote next week—there may or may not be—we intend to do everything we can to defeat this legislation. We have time to debate this legislation next week. If it goes to beyond cloture, we will have more hours than to debate this legislation. Let's take one step at a time.

I will point out to Senators the process first, and then we will go to substance. I do not know whether or not this is an argument that wins with the public. The argument about this bankruptcy bill on substance wins with the public. We have had some discussion about the scope of the conference and rule XXVIII.

This was a State Department authorization bill. We had an "invasion of the body snatchers" where all of the content dealing with State Department reauthorization has been taken out and bankruptcy has been put in. It is a clear abuse of the legislative process. I doubt whether any Senator who views himself as a legislator can be comfortable with the way we are proceeding.

I believe there are many Senators who are going to want to speak about this outrageous process. I do not know if I have ever seen anything like this where we have a State Department reauthorization bill conference report