

to be completed in the interim period. The results of those studies should facilitate re-examination of the question of competition between these groundfish fisheries and the Steller sea lion.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, there is no reason to interrupt this fishery. There is great reason to try to find out why the steller sea lion is declining. We have a massive effort to try to determine that. We will cooperate in any way we can to save this population. But we do not want to lose this massive biomass in the process.

If this trawl fishery does not continue, it will decline back to where it was before the trawl fishery was started. I think those who criticize us would do well to study the science and talk to people who know something about these steller sea lions and the fisheries, and quit listening to these extremist political people who are involved in this process, as far as the environmental groups are concerned.

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I send a concurrent resolution to the desk providing for a conditional adjournment of Congress until November 14, 2000, and I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table. I ask that the clerk read the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). The clerk will report the resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 159) providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives:

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring). That when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Wednesday, November 1, 2000, or Thursday, November 2, 2000, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Tuesday, November 14, 2000, or until such time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Wednesday, November 1, 2000, or Thursday, November 2, 2000, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until noon on Monday, November 13, 2000, at 2 p.m., or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Sen-

ate and House, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

There being no objection, the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 159) was considered and agreed to.

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

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

PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE LAW

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am pleased this morning that the Senate thus far is functioning the way it should when it comes to new controversial matters such as my State's physician-assisted suicide law. I have been forced to filibuster the tax bill since late last week because at that time there was an effort to stuff the Nickles legislation into that package in the dead of night. This legislation troubles me greatly because I believe it will cause unnecessary suffering for patients in every corner of the country. It involves law enforcement—specifically, the Drug Enforcement Administration—in a process that is so sensitive with respect to helping patients who are suffering around our country.

This legislation has never been marked up by the committee of jurisdiction in the Senate. It has never been open to amendment by the Senate. It has not cleared even one of the traditional hurdles to which important legislation is subjected when it is introduced in the Senate.

This is legislation that has over 50 leading health organizations, including the American Cancer Society, stating that it is going to hurt pain care for the dying. It is also fair to say that the senior Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. NICKLES, has a number of organizations that support his efforts. When we have a number of organizations, respected organizations, that disagree about a very sensitive, totally new issue before the Congress, the Senate certainly should move carefully to evaluate the consequences of its actions.

I spoke with the President of the United States about this matter twice on Monday. I was pleased to read the comments of the President expressing concern about the bill's impact on pain care and on physicians. I am absolutely convinced that if this legislation were to become law, there would be many health care providers in this country who are opposed to physician-assisted suicide, as I am, who would be very fearful about treating pain aggressively because the Nickles legislation

criminalizes decisions with respect to pain management.

The people of Oregon, who have a ballot in their hand such as this one right now, want to know that this ballot really counts. The people of Oregon, in coffee shops and beauty parlors all over the State, when they are considering how to vote right now, are asking themselves: Does this ballot really count? When we vote on a matter that is critical to us, particularly on a measure that has historically been left to the States, we want to make sure that people 3,000 miles away won't substitute their personal moral and religious beliefs for ours on a matter that has historically been left to us to decide.

I can tell the people of Oregon now that their vote still counts. As of today, whether you vote for my party or the party of Senator NICKLES, it doesn't matter. This ballot, as of this morning in the State of Oregon, still counts, regardless of whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, a Liberal, a Conservative, Independent. Regardless of your political persuasion, as of now in the State of Oregon, this ballot still counts.

Your vote is important. I hope folks at home exercise that right. Their vote still means something. I am going to do my best to see that it continues to count when Congress reconvenes after the election.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho is recognized.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT DEPENDENCE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, as the Senator from Oregon is leaving the floor, I thank him for the cooperation and bipartisan work he and I were able to accomplish this year, through the Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee that I chair on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, by passing and yesterday having the President sign the community school district dependent bill that goes a long way toward stabilizing our schools and our county governances within the rural resource dependent communities of the western public land States.

Mr. WYDEN. Will the Senator yield briefly?

Mr. CRAIG. I am happy to yield.

Mr. WYDEN. I appreciate my colleague yielding. I thank him for the extraordinary bipartisan approach he has taken throughout this session.

I think 18 months ago, when the session began and we were tackling the county payments question, particularly rural schools and roads, nobody thought we could put together a bipartisan coalition. Two sides were completely dug in. One side said we should totally divorce these payments from