

## ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, Senator LOTT and I have been continuing in our discussions and negotiations throughout the day. We have reached an agreement, and we are now in a position to lay the resolution before the body. It is my intention to have a vote—as I understand it, there is no request for a rollcall vote—at 3:30 this afternoon. So I encourage those Senators who wish to participate in the debate, or to present their views, to come to the floor between now and 3:30. At that time, I will ask that the Senate vote on the organizing resolution.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote occur at 3:30 and that it be a unanimous-consent request for a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LOTT. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, and I will not object.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask the request be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The request is so vitiated.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I could be recognized at this point, I do want to say I was certainly willing to cooperate with that. I have asked if there is a Member who feels the necessity of a recorded vote. I have not been so notified. I want to make sure Members understand we anticipate there will be a voice vote. However, there will be opportunity for debate and a colloquy which Senator DASCHLE and I will have between now and 3:30.

So Members can have some idea of what to expect, we do expect to have the vote around 3:30. In the debate or comments that will need to be put in the RECORD, they can still be made after that. But between now and that time, we still have an opportunity for Members to present their statements on the RECORD.

Mr. DASCHLE. I now, again, suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Chair recognizes the majority leader.

## CONDUCT OF A 50/50 SENATE

Mr. DASCHLE. The other day, I quoted the writer Thomas Wolfe who said:

America is not only the place where miracles happen, they happen all the time.

If the resolution I will soon introduce is not miraculous, it is, at the very least, historic. It is also fair and reasonable. The details and the spirit of this agreement, which I expect the Senate to pass later today, should enable us to conduct our Nation's first 50/50 Senate in a most productive and bipartisan manner.

I especially thank the Republican leader, Senator LOTT. We will enter into a colloquy in a period of time to be later determined, but I must say, without his leadership and his sense of basic fairness, this agreement would not have come about. He and I have spent many hours over the last several months, and now weeks, and certainly in the last several days, negotiating the details of this agreement. He spent many more hours consulting with the members of his caucus about it. He and they deserve credit for taking this unprecedented step.

I also thank and commend my colleagues on this side of the aisle for their good counsel and patience as this agreement was negotiated, and for their support of the finished product. I particularly thank our distinguished President pro tempore, ROBERT C. BYRD, for his advice. When you are making history, you can't have a better guide than the man who has literally written the book on the history of the Senate.

Our negotiations involve many difficult issues and many strongly held opinions. Neither party got everything it wanted. Both sides made concessions. Both caucuses made principled compromises. That is the essence of democracy.

This agreement accurately reflects the historic composition of the Senate. More important, I believe it reflects the political thinking of the American people. It calls for equal representation on Senate committees. Every committee would have the same number of Republicans and Democrats. And it specifies that Republicans will chair the committees after January 20. It allows for equal budgets and office space for both caucuses, at 50/50.

One of the most vexing questions we struggled with during our negotiations was how to break ties when committees are divided equally. We have agreed that in the event of a tie vote, either leader can move to discharge a bill or nomination. The Senate will then debate the motion to discharge for four hours, and that time will be equally divided. There will then be a vote on the motion. If the motion passes, the bill or nomination would be placed on the calendar.

Similarly, the resolution allows committee Chairs to discharge a sub-

committee in the case of a tie vote and place the legislative item or nomination on the full committee agenda.

We arrived at this process after much thinking and exchange of ideas. Senator LOTT has been concerned that equal representation on the committees could lead to gridlock. While I do not share that concern, I believe this was a fair concession to get this agreement.

As to cloture, the resolution provides that no cloture resolution shall be filed by either party except to end a debate, and in no case would cloture be filed before at least 12 hours of debate.

This provision reflects concerns on our side of the aisle. We wanted to ensure that there would be an opportunity for debate before cloture was filed. Here, too, I believe Senator LOTT and the Republicans have provided a fair compromise.

The resolution provides that the majority leader shall retain his prerogative to obtain first right of recognition but that both leaders may be recognized, as is currently the case, to make motions to proceed; and in scheduling legislation on the floor, both leaders shall attempt to attain an equal balance of the interests of either of the two parties; and if either party achieves a true majority during the 107th Congress, we would need to adopt a new organizing resolution.

Senator LOTT and I have discussed other ways to ensure bipartisanship in the Senate, from the right to offer amendments to the makeup of conference committees. We have pledged to work together to make the Senate operate in a fair and bipartisan manner, which I hope will enable us to demonstrate to the American people that their system of government is strong and sound.

I have been asked what bipartisanship will mean in the 107th Congress. We cannot quantify bipartisanship. Bipartisanship is not a mathematical formula; it is a spirit. It is a way of working together that tolerates open debate. It recognizes principled compromise—such as today's historic agreement. Bipartisanship means respecting the right of each Senator to speak his or her mind and vote his or her conscience. It means recognizing that we must do business differently after an election that gave us a 50/50 Senate and almost an evenly divided House. Above all, it means putting the national interests above personal or party interests.

Tomorrow, Congress will count the electoral ballots and officially recognize the results of the Presidential election. It is fitting that today we officially recognize the results of the Senate elections which gave us an even split between the parties.

Today's agreement makes a big downpayment on the bipartisanship we