

the office of the Finance Committee chairman, Senator BAUCUS. I ask unanimous consent that the privilege of the floor be granted to them today during the pendency of the Railroad Retirement Act.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—H.R. 10

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow Senator NICKLES be recognized to raise a point of order against the pending substitute with Senator BAUCUS then immediately to be recognized to make a motion to waive. Further, I ask unanimous consent that there then be 30 minutes equally divided between Senators BAUCUS and NICKLES or their designees. I also ask unanimous consent that following the debate time the Senate proceed to a vote on the motion to waive, and if the motion to waive is agreed to then the substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill be read the third time, and the Senate then proceed to a vote on passage of H.R. 10, with the cloture vote having been vitiated.

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

AUTHORIZING LEGAL
REPRESENTATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 186, submitted earlier today by the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 186) to authorize representation of Senator LOTT in the case of *Lee v. Lott*.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, this resolution concerns a civil action commenced in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi. The lawsuit, filed by a prolific, pro se plaintiff, names Senator LOTT as the sole defendant. The plaintiff has filed a number of prior lawsuits against other public officials, which have been dismissed by several courts.

In this action, the plaintiff calls upon Senator LOTT to commence impeachment proceedings against the United States Supreme Court for its ruling in *Bush v. Gore*. The plaintiff contends that because the Supreme Court's decision in that case was unlawful, all actions taken by President George Bush are unconstitutional, including one allegedly denying him disability benefits. This resolution authorizes the Senate Legal Counsel to represent Sen-

ator LOTT in this suit to move for its dismissal. Of course, under the Constitution, it is the House of Representatives, not the Senate, that initiates impeachment proceedings and the judgment of neither House in impeachment matters is the subject of judicial review.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolution and its preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and that statements by the majority leader be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 186) was agreed to.

The preamble were agreed to.
(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURE READ THE FIRST
TIME—S. 1765

Mr. REID. I send a bill to the desk regarding bioterrorism preparedness and ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1765) to improve the ability of the United States to prepare for and respond to a biological threat or attack.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of myself, Senator KENNEDY, and dozens of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support critical legislation that will help our Nation better prepare to defend against potential bioterrorist attacks.

The Bioterrorism Preparedness Act of 2001 was first introduced on November 15. Today, we are reintroducing this bill so that it may be placed directly on the calendar and available for consideration by the full Senate.

As my colleagues will note, the Bioterrorism Preparedness Act enjoys broad bipartisan support. We are reintroducing the legislation today with 71 cosponsors—33 Republicans and 38 Democrats. In addition, in the two weeks since the legislation was first introduced, we have gained the support of over two dozen organizations, including the American Medical Association, the Biotechnology Industry Organization, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Public Health Association, the Association of Minority Health Professions Schools, and the National Association of Children's Hospitals & Related Institutions. The list of supporters is growing every day.

In light of this overwhelming support and the short time remaining this session of Congress, we are moving the bill directly onto the Senate calendar so that it will be available for us to consider as soon as possible.

In the wake of the attacks at the Pentagon and World Trade Center on

September 11 and subsequent bioterrorist attacks, we know that bioterrorism is a significant and growing threat. I believe we must take steps this year to strengthen our capabilities to prepare for and respond to potential attacks.

Three years ago, as Chair of the Senate Public Health Subcommittee, I began a series of hearings to study in-depth the ability of our nation's public health infrastructure—at the local, state, and national level—to respond to public health threats and emergencies, including bioterrorism. Those hearings culminated in the passage of legislation last year—the Public Health Threats and Emergencies Act of 2000—intended to enhance coordination and improve resources for our public health system, principally at the state and local levels. But that authorizing legislation has never fully been funded, and it is now clear that more resources are needed to immediately strengthen our response capabilities.

That is why I feel so strongly that we must pass the Bioterrorism Preparedness Act of 2001. The legislation will address gaps in our Nation's defenses by expanding the capabilities of local, state, and federal government to respond to bioterrorist attacks, improving coordination among those responsible for responding to bioterrorist threats, speeding the development of vaccines and other countermeasures, and safeguarding the Nation's food supply and agriculture.

In closing, I want to thank my colleagues who have worked so hard to develop this legislation. In particular, I would like to single out Senator ROBERTS, Senator DASCHLE, and Senator HUTCHISON for their work on the agricultural provisions; Senators GREGG and HUTCHINSON for their contributions on the drug and vaccine development components; and Senator COLLINS for her input on the food safety provisions. Of course, I would also like to acknowledge my chief Democratic cosponsor, Senator KENNEDY. I encourage my colleagues who have not yet cosponsored this legislation to do so. And I encourage the leadership of the Senate to work with Senator KENNEDY and myself to find time in the days remaining so that this important legislation can be passed.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 5, 2001

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 9:30 a.m.,