

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, all Senators should be aware that the Senate will convene on Friday on the bankruptcy bill. If amendments are available, they will be considered on Friday, but votes will be deferred over until Tuesday of next week. Amendments also can be offered or expect to be offered during the day on Monday. Under the previous order, votes ordered on Friday or Monday will occur on Tuesday at 11 a.m. and then there will be at least two votes at 2:45 p.m. after the weekly policy luncheons on Tuesday.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LOTT. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order following the remarks of Senators BIDEN and LIEBERMAN.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield the floor?

Mr. LOTT. I am happy to yield.

Mr. REID. I want to emphasize what our leader said. We have a lot of amendments pending. We have all day tomorrow, all day Monday. There is going to come a time Tuesday and Wednesday when Members will be asked, do you need all this time? how much time do you need? And I am alerting everybody to what Senator DASCHLE said earlier today: They can have all day tomorrow to talk as much as they want tomorrow, as much as they want Friday. Senator CONRAD said he would be happy to yield the floor to offer amendments. He will come at 10:15 or whenever we come in, in the morning.

The point is, anyone within the sound of my voice, we have 86 amendments. There will come a time next week when we have to dispose of the amendments. That is the agreement that has been tentatively reached by the two leaders. I hope people are not upset next week when there may be motions to table and other things done to dispose of some of the amendments.

Mr. LOTT. Senator REID, I appreciate you saying that. That is exactly what I was urging. There are over 100 amendments pending that have been suggested or listed by over 30 Senators. Some Senators may have other commitments tomorrow, may be in their States with legitimate and official business, but surely not all 30 Senators are gone. Friday would be a wonderful time to talk at great length on the great wisdom of any amendments that might be offered. I hope that happens. I thank you for urging Senators to do that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

IMPORTANT PROGRESS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the important progress that has been made in the difficult post-war political and economic transformation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Some critics of American policy seem inclined to seize on every shred of negative news as alleged arguments for pulling up stakes and disengaging from the Balkans.

I have never belonged to this "cut and run school," and, in fact, the good news I have to report illustrates two fundamental truths: first, that persistence pays; and second, that more than ever, we need to continue to be engaged on the ground in Bosnia.

Since the November 2000 elections—which, I might add, the international news media quickly, and incorrectly, dubbed a major setback for the Dayton Accords—several positive political and economic developments have occurred in Bosnia, at both the national and the entity level, that merit our close attention.

In fact, the situation has progressed to the point where Bosnia and Herzegovina now stands at a critical juncture. For the first time there appears to be a fundamental shift away from the ultra-nationalist parties that have until now dominated Bosnia's post-war political process.

As the Presiding Officer knows, immediately after the war ended, each of the main ethnic groups—the Bosniaks, or Muslims, the Croats, and the Serbs—rallied around ultra-nationalist leaders who had neither the capability nor the intention of bringing about a united Bosnia.

But now there has been a fundamental shift away from these ultra-nationalist parties and toward a government that is more moderate and inclusive and less nationalistic.

But the tide, Mr. President, has not yet definitively turned. Let me try to explain this fairly complex picture.

At the level of both the Muslim-Croat Federation and of the national government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the main agent of this remarkable shift has been a coalition of non-nationalist parties aptly known as the "Alliance for Change."

In the wake of the November elections, these parties found the political courage to put aside their disparate interests and agendas and push together to oust the hardline nationalists.

In early February, the Alliance scored its first major victory at the national level when it closed ranks to defeat the election of nationalist candidate Martin Raguz for Prime Minister.

In the process, in a truly remarkable breakthrough, the ultra-nationalist Serb presidency member joined the Muslim presidency member from the

nationalist Bosniak SDA party in backing a non-nationalist candidate for Prime Minister, Božidar Matić, who was put forward by the Alliance.

I am told that Ante Jelavić, the third presidency member who leads the hardline Bosnian Croat HDZ party, stormed out of the presidency session in a fury. Having met Mr. Jelavić in Bosnia several years ago, I am not surprised at his behavior.

Two weeks ago on February 22—three months after the elections—Matić and his team of ministers were confirmed as the first ever non-nationalist government in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Then, on February 28, came word of a second stunning success, this time at the Federation level. In another political first for Bosnia, two non-nationalist candidates nominated by the Alliance for Change, Karlo Filipović and Safet Halilović, were elected as President and Vice-President of the Federation.

Mr. President, these are momentous changes. These two gentlemen are genuine democrats who have bought into Dayton. I am confident that they and their allies will now push for full implementation, including adopting a new elections law, an effectively functioning Federation legislature, and honest economic reform.

In a promising harbinger of the new political order, Prime Minister Matić gave the nationalist parties a clear indication of his priorities when he told them: "I don't speak Serbian, Croatian, or Bosnian. I speak the language of competitive economic skills, because that's the only language that will help us survive."

That would be an ordinary statement for anybody to make in any other democracy but it is a breathtaking statement in Bosnia.

That, Mr. President, is the language of Bosnia's future.

Unfortunately, Mr. Jelavić and his ultra-nationalist cronies in the HDZ appear unwilling to accept their defeat and leave power gracefully. Last Saturday, at a self-appointed congress held in Mostar, the Bosnian Croat National Assembly announced its intention to form a separate Croat political entity in all but name and to establish temporary self-administration. This move, which would be a clear violation of the Dayton Peace Accords, has been roundly condemned by the international community.

In point of fact, the HDZ's actions reveal just how desperate Jelavić and his ilk have become. With the Alliance for Change poised to solidify its new political gains, Jelavić was forced to play the nationalist card once again by claiming that he alone is defending the interests of Bosnia's Croat community.

This assertion, however, is patently false, for Jelavić does not speak for all Bosnian Croats. People like Krešimir Zubak, the newly appointed national