

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the privilege of the floor be extended to the following staffers for the duration of S. 5: Harold Kim, Ryan Triplette, Hannibal Kemerer, Nathan Morris, Rita Lari Jocum, Kevin O'Scannlain, Brendan Dunn, and Scott Will, all from the Judiciary Committee.

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

Mr. ALLEN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, and after consultation with the Democratic Leader, pursuant to Public Law 106-286, appoints the following members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: the Senator from Montana, Mr. BAUCUS; the Senator from Michigan, Mr. LEVIN; the Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN; and the Senator from North Dakota, Mr. DORGAN.

CONGRATULATING THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 41, submitted earlier today by Senators KENNEDY, KERRY, and REED.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 41) congratulating the New England Patriots on their victory in Super Bowl XXXIX.

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to congratulate the New England Patriots for winning yesterday's exciting Super Bowl against the Philadelphia Eagles, 24-21.

What a year our sports teams in New England have had. The Patriots won the Super Bowl and the Boston Red Sox won the World Series. It doesn't get much better than that.

The Patriots deserve great credit for another brilliant season. They have shattered the NFL record by winning 21 straight games. The previous record was held by the Miami Dolphins in 1972, who won 15 straight games.

With nine seconds left in the game yesterday, Rodney Harrison intercepted his second pass of the day, clinching the Patriot's second straight Super Bowl and their third Super Bowl championship in 4 years.

All three of those Super Bowl victories were by the same narrow margin—three points. In their two previous Super Bowl victories, they won by last-second field goals. This year, the field goal came earlier, but the game was no less a cliff-hanger.

Deion Branch, a wide receiver of the Patriots, was a special hero in the game. He tied a Super Bowl record by catching eleven passes, and was named the Super Bowl's Most Valuable Player. Quarterback Tom Brady, as usual, was outstanding. There were many other heroes as well on both offense and defense, and it took all their skill and great teamwork to put points on the scoreboard. In fact, they sacked the quarterback four times and had three interceptions, two by Rodney Harrison.

Much of the credit in the victory also goes to Bill Belichick and his two outstanding Assistant Coaches, Romeo Crennel and Charlie Weiss, who made sure that the team was well prepared with the strongest possible game plan every week throughout the season, and especially for the playoffs and the Super Bowl.

Finally, I congratulate Patriots owner Bob Kraft for his strong support of the team, and for his very generous tribute to all the Patriots fans as well. He was right when he said this Super Bowl victory would not have been possible without the strong support of millions of Patriots fans throughout New England.

The pending resolution commends the Patriots for their dramatic victory. I urge the Senate to approve it, and I hope very much we'll be back here in 2006 to pass a similar resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and the preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, that any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD at the appropriate place as if read, without intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 41) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to. The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 41

Whereas, on Sunday, February 6, 2005 the New England Patriots defeated the Philadelphia Eagles 24-21 in Super Bowl XXXIX, in Jacksonville, Florida;

Whereas this victory is the second consecutive Super Bowl championship for the New England Patriots and their third Super Bowl championship in the past four years;

Whereas all three Super Bowl victories by the New England Patriots were cliffhangers and were won by three points in each game;

Whereas the New England Patriots have set a National Football League record this season by winning 21 consecutive games;

Whereas Head Coach Bill Belichick and Assistant Coaches Romeo Crennel and Charlie Weiss of the New England Patriots brilliantly created successful game plans throughout the season;

Whereas wide receiver Deion Branch of the New England Patriots tied a Super Bowl record by catching eleven passes and was named Most Valuable Player in the Super Bowl;

Whereas extraordinary efforts by other players of the New England Patriots, including Tom Brady, Troy Brown, Teddy Bruschi, Corey Dillon, David Givens, Rodney Harrison, Willie McGinest, Richard Seymour, Adam Vinatieri, and Mike Vrabel, also contributed to the Super Bowl victory;

Whereas the offensive linemen of the New England Patriots, Matt Light, Joe Andruzzi, Dan Koppen, Stephen Neal, and Brandon Gorin deserve great credit for protecting quarterback Tom Brady and blocking for running back Corey Dillon in the Super Bowl; and

Whereas owner Bob Kraft of the New England Patriots deserves great credit for his strong support of the team, and for his gracious acknowledgement that the Super Bowl Championship would not have been possible without the strong support of the millions of fans throughout New England.

Resolved, That the Senate of the United States congratulates the New England Patriots on their dramatic victory Super Bowl XXXIX.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2005

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 8. I further ask that following the prayer and the pledge the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the Journal of the proceedings be approved to date, the time for two leaders be reserved, and the Senate begin a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee, and the second 30 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee; provided that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of S. 5, the class action bill. I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess from 12:30 to 2:15 for the weekly party luncheons.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, tomorrow following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the class action bill. The chairman and ranking member will be here as we resume debate. We expect to begin the amending process tomorrow morning. Rollcall votes are expected during tomorrow's session. No votes are expected prior to the party luncheons.