

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the Senate will begin a period of morning business until 1 p.m. Following morning business, we may consider any legislation that can be cleared by unanimous consent.

 OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS
NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, negotiations are still ongoing with respect to the omnibus appropriations bill, but I think I can say that it is in its very final stages, and we should have a final conclusion before 2 o'clock so that all of the drafting can be carried out. I emphasize, though, there are a few minor issues that have not been finally cleared, and there are a couple of big issues that are still being debated about exactly what the effective date would be, for instance, with regard to the census issue.

I think it is a very important issue. The census is in the Constitution. And the Constitution says that the census shall be taken by enumeration; that means count, head count. No amount of modern manipulation or technology can replace what the Constitution says. Twice Federal courts have ruled 3-0 that the census must be done by enumeration.

But rather than fight this out on and on and on, I think the logical order to do business is, let the Supreme Court rule, which they will do in March, and then we will proceed from there. That issue has not been finally resolved, but it will be in the next couple of hours, and then every Senator and House Member will have an opportunity to ask questions, to look at the language.

There are hundreds—thousands—of issues that are in this legislation. But the legislation will be available. There will be staff and Senators and Congressmen who have been involved, who can answer questions about things as varied as education and agriculture and defense and the drug war and missile defense. It is all in this bill.

I must say that while there are some great disappointments on my part about what is not in the bill and some disappointments about some things that are in the bill, on balance this is going to be good for America. I had a question a moment ago about who is the winner and who is the loser. The only question should be: Is America the winner? Are our children going to be better off, safer? Will there be a greater effort to fight the scourge of drugs in our schools and in our society? The answer is yes.

We will have a stronger defense. For the first time since 1985, we have stopped the free-fall in spending for the necessary readiness and equipment for our men and women in uniform. We added some \$9 billion in this legislation for the drug war, for defense of our country, for intelligence, and for missile defense.

We also agreed to \$690 million for a greater effort in the drug area. We did agree to the President's request for more funds for education. A lot of time has been spent this year in the education area, and we have made some progress. We have a better higher education bill. We are going to have a stronger vocational education bill. And that is an area where I think we should put a lot more emphasis.

We did improve on some of the programs connected to Head Start, and we are going to have more teachers in our schools in America, smaller class sizes. But the decision of how it is going to be done will be made at the local level in the individual school districts; it will not be dictated by and run by bureaucrats here in Washington, DC. So I think that was a significant achievement on both sides of the issue.

I will not go down the list of all the areas in this bill, but when you look at them all and you consider what we have done and what this can lead to next year, I think it is progress, and I hope the Members will believe that they can support it.

There will be time for Members to review its content. If a rollcall is requested, it is expected to occur at either 10 o'clock in the morning on Friday or 5 o'clock in the afternoon, to accommodate the maximum number of Senators and give them time to review the language that is included in the final agreement. Certainly, we will make Members aware of any specific time for votes, if necessary. I will be consulting with Senator DASCHLE on that.

I thank my colleagues for their attention and for their cooperation throughout the year.

I do have a number of issues that we would like to do in terms of some tributes and resolutions on travel and other issues. So I would like to do that now.

 ORDER FOR PRINTING OF
INDIVIDUAL SENATE DOCUMENTS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be printed as individual Senate documents a compilation of materials from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in tribute to Senators DAN COATS of Indiana, DIRK KEMPTHORNE of Idaho, DALE BUMPERS of Arkansas, WENDELL FORD of Kentucky, and JOHN GLENN of Ohio.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAIG). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. These clearly are five great Senators who have served their States and their country so well. And I am sure they will continue to do so, albeit in a different arena. Of course, I have said here, DAN COATS has been one of my closest friends for the past 20 years. I will miss him here but I will be with him in other areas.

And, of course, JOHN GLENN makes history once again flying off into space. And many Senators and their spouses will be there to see that event.

 ELECTION OF SERGEANT AT ARMS
AND DOORKEEPER OF THE SENATE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 300, which is at the desk, and I ask that the resolution be read.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 300) electing James W. Ziglar, of Mississippi, as the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

Resolved, That James W. Ziglar, of Mississippi, be, and he is hereby, elected Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate effective November 9, 1998.

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

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 300) was agreed to.

 RULE XXXIX AUTHORIZATION

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to Senate Resolution 301, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 301) relative to Rule XXXIX.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

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

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 301) was agreed to as follows:

 S. RES. 301

Resolved, That if a Member who is precluded from foreign travel by the provisions of Rule 39 is appointed as a delegate to an official conference to be attended by Members of the Senate, then the appointment of that individual shall constitute an authorization by the Senate and the individual will not be deemed in violation of Rule 39.

SEC. 2. This resolution shall be applicable only until November 21, 1998.

 RULE XXXIII AUTHORIZATION

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to Senate Resolution 302, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 302) relative to Rule XXXIII.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

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

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, reserving the right to object—I don't have any intention of objecting—what are these two changes in 33 and 39?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, Rule XXXIX is with regard to foreign travel by Members. Senator BUMPERS will be going with a Codel and we had to have special permission for that to occur.

I am very anxious to advise Senator BYRD regarding Rule XXXIII. The purpose is to provide for a video presentation of Senator BYRD on the operation of the Senate during orientation. We think it would be very useful for our Members who may not be able to attend orientation, for review later. We think it would also be useful for students of this institution.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the distinguished majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 302) was agreed to as follows:

S. RES. 302

Resolved, That, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXXIII, the Senate authorizes the videotaping of the address by the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. Byrd) to the incoming Senators scheduled to be given in the Senate Chamber in December 1998.

AUTHORIZATION OF RECESS APPOINTMENTS

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to Senate Resolution 303, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 303) authorizing the President of the Senate, the President of the Senate pro tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders to make certain appointments during the recess of the present session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

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

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 303) was agreed to as follows:

S. RES. 303

Resolved, That during the recess of the present session of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President of the Senate pro tempore, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the Senate be, and they are hereby, authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

Mr. LOTT. I might say to Senators who are in the Chamber, and others who may be watching, ordinarily much of this is done at the very last minute of the session. I thought that some of it could be done this morning. I thought we would start our wrap-up work now. I think that is appropriate. We get, frankly, more attention, and it also will help conclude sooner tomorrow.

THANKS OF THE SENATE TO THE VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to Senate Resolution 304, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 304) tendering the thanks of the Senate to the Vice President for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

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

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 304) was agreed to as follows:

S. RES. 304

Resolved, That the thanks of the Senate are hereby tendered to the Honorable Al Gore, Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate, for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which he has presided over its deliberations during the second session of the One Hundred Fifth Congress.

THANKS OF THE SENATE TO THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to Senate Resolution 305, introduced earlier today.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 305) tendering the thanks of the Senate to the President pro tempore for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 305) was agreed to as follows:

S. RES. 305

Resolved, That the thanks of the Senate are hereby tendered to the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President pro tempore of the Senate, for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which he has presided over its deliberations during the second session of the One Hundred Fifth Congress.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I want to add one note. I have never seen a more diligent Senator than Senator THURMOND has been in opening the Senate. He and Senator BYRD are living institutions. They have reverence for this institution. Many times, Senator THURMOND had been up late, had committee hearings, had been involved in moving the Thurmond bill, which was the armed services authorization bill, and had worked well into the night for a year. But when the Senate would open at 8:30, 9 o'clock, or 9:30, he was in the Chair and always very kind to our Chaplain. That exemplifies what the Senate should really be like. So I add my special appreciation to the President pro tempore.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MACK). Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 1 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

Mr. GREGG. 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. CRAIG. 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. CRAIG. Mr. President, I assume we remain in morning business until 1 o'clock; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That's correct.

AGRICULTURAL CRISIS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, we have just heard the Republican majority leader outline in brief the negotiations between the White House and the Congress as it relates to a final package of fiscal affairs for this Government for the coming year.

Over the course of the last several days, I have had the opportunity to attend a variety of those negotiations, and on occasion, based on my certain areas of knowledge, to be consulted as to what directions we might head.

I thought for a few moments this morning I would discuss briefly the agricultural package, because it is one of those major areas of concern and dispute for a period of time up until late last evening—that, of course, and the educational package that most of our colleagues are now becoming aware of.