

consideration of treaty document 105-36 dealing with the NATO expansion.

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

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I further ask unanimous consent that at 5:15 p.m., the time prior to the previously scheduled cloture vote on H.R. 2646, the Coverdell A+ education account bill, be equally divided in the usual form between Senator COVERDELL and Senator DASCHLE.

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

#### PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. So then tomorrow the Senate will be in the morning business period from 9:30 until 11:30. Under the previous consent, then at 11:30 we will go back to the NATO expansion treaty. All Senators with amendments to the treaty are encouraged to contact the managers of the treaty with their amendments in hopes of making considerable progress on the treaty during Thursday's session. I want to emphasize the bulk of the day tomorrow, from 11:30 until 5:15, that entire time, will be devoted to discussion or debate on the NATO enlargement issue. We hope that amendments can be offered. We want to give the Senate ample time to think about this issue and debate it, have amendments and to have votes.

We are double-tracking it now, while we await the cloture votes on the education bill, but that is quite often done. It is in no way intended to diminish the importance of NATO enlargement. It is, in fact, intended to begin the process for Senators and the American people in every way possible to think about this issue, make sure we are doing the right thing. And I think it is the right thing to have the NATO enlargement.

Then, when we complete the education bill, whenever that comes, we will meet with interested and involved Senators on both sides, see how much more time is needed, what other amendments are pending, and then we would stay on it until it is completed. I hope we could get that done by a reasonable time next week, hopefully Wednesday or Thursday. But it is a very important issue and we will continue working on it until we are convinced that Senators are satisfied they have had their say. Then we would go to the recorded vote.

Also, under the previous consent, then, at 5:15 the Senate would debate H.R. 2646, the Coverdell education bill, for 30 minutes prior to the previously scheduled 5:45 cloture vote on the bill.

We may actually move that time a little bit so that we can have an earlier vote. As a matter of fact, Madam President, I will change my earlier unanimous consent request and ask consent that the cloture votes previously ordered on H.R. 2646 now occur at 5:15 p.m. and the debate time earlier agreed to actually occur now at 4:45.

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

Mr. LOTT. I want to remind all Members that first-degree amendments to H.R. 2646 must be filed by 1 p.m. on Thursday, and second-degree amendments must be filed by 4:45 tomorrow—it's now 4:15—under the most recent agreement. Second-degree amendments must be filed by 4:15.

In addition, the Senate may consider other legislative or Executive Calendar business cleared for Senate action. We do have some Executive Calendar items I hope we can take up before the end of the week.

So Members can anticipate rollcall votes throughout Thursday's session with the ones that I have already mentioned scheduled for sure to occur at, I believe, 5:15 now.

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LOTT. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator CONRAD.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

#### TOBACCO LEGISLATION

Mr. CONRAD. I thank the Chair. Madam President, I especially thank her for locating me properly in North Dakota. We are very sensitive about that up our way, as you can imagine. I also thank the leader for accommodating me in this way.

Moments ago, we heard the Senator from Iowa speak on the budget and the fact that we are considering the budget in the Budget Committee. I wanted to make just a few observations on what is occurring there and what has led us to this point.

In 1993, the Democrats passed an economic plan that was a 5-year plan. That plan cut spending and it also raised income taxes on the wealthiest 1.5 percent of the people in this country. Many criticized us for that plan at the time, doubting that it would reduce the deficit as we believed, doubting that it would strengthen the economy as we believed, and doubting that it would reduce unemployment and inflation as we believed. But now we are able to look back and see the record and the record is clear. The 1993 economic plan has worked and worked remarkably well. It worked so well that this year we are actually contemplating a balanced budget on a unified basis. That will be the first time in 30 years that the United States has had a balanced budget on a unified basis. When I use those words "on a unified basis," that simply means that we are looking at all of the spending and all of the revenue of the Federal Government. All of them are put together. They are accumulated in order to determine balance.

As a result of that economic policy and economic plan that was put in place, we have enjoyed a remarkable

economic resurgence in this country. We have very strong economic growth, the lowest unemployment in 24 years, the lowest inflation in 30 years. The size of the Government in relationship to the size of our entire economy has been coming down steadily. We have the smallest size of Government in this country in 30 years. But the job is not yet done, because it is also true that we continue to use Social Security trust fund surpluses in order to achieve balance. So the next great challenge is to stop using the Social Security trust fund surpluses. That is why the President has called on us to save Social Security first, before we use any of those surpluses for any other purpose.

The Democrats subscribe to that position. I am pleased to report in the budget that has been put before us by the chairman of the Budget Committee, he, too, has subscribed to the notion of saving Social Security first and not using the surpluses for any other purpose until we resolve the long-term solvency of the Social Security system. But we do have a problem with the budget resolution laid down by the chairman today. The problem that we have is that many of us believe that it endangers comprehensive tobacco legislation, comprehensive national tobacco policy. The reason for that is in the chairman's mark he has provided that if we do get revenues from tobacco, that they can only be used for the Medicare system.

Madam President, I would be the first to acknowledge the great importance of the Medicare system. But I do not believe that the chairman's mark solves the Medicare problem. I do not think he makes any representation that it does.

What is required to save Medicare for the long term is Medicare reform. That is why we have a bipartisan commission that worked this year to prepare us an outline as to how we strengthen Medicare for the long term.

But I think it is also fair to say that Medicare is not a national tobacco policy, and we need a national tobacco policy. If we are going to have comprehensive legislation, if we are going to have a resolution of the tobacco controversy, the experts have told us we need a comprehensive plan, one that has as its highest priority protecting the public health, one that has as its highest priority the reduction of teen smoking, because we all know that 90 percent of smokers start before they are 19, fully half start before age 14.

So if we are really going to do something to protect the public health, we need to act to prevent people from taking up the habit. That means if we get tobacco revenues, we should use part of that money for smoking cessation programs, smoking prevention programs, countertobacco advertising programs, health research, and, yes, Medicare, and we Democrats also believe, yes, Social Security.

We believe some of the money should be saved for strengthening both Medicare and Social Security, but we don't

believe that it is appropriate to limit the use of the funds for only one purpose—strengthening Medicare. We don't believe that is appropriate. We believe if we are going to have a national tobacco policy, that some of the funds, a relatively modest amount of the total, be reserved for smoking cessation, smoking prevention, countertobacco advertising, health research, and other programs that have been advocated by the experts that have come before us.

The irony is, every comprehensive bill that is before this body uses the funds not just for Medicare but for these other purposes as well. The bill presented by Senator MCCAIN, the chairman of the Commerce Committee, the bill presented by Senator LUGAR, the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, the bill put before us by Senator HATCH, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee—all Republicans, all

committee chairmen—they have not said in their comprehensive bills we just use the money for Medicare. No; they have said, to have a comprehensive national tobacco policy, we have to do more than that; we have to have a tobacco control program that really helps us stop the 400,000 deaths that occur every year in this country because of the use of tobacco products.

Madam President, we urge our colleagues to listen to Dr. Koop, who wrote to us today that the approach of the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee is inadequate—in fact, he used the words “woefully inadequate”—to counter the scourge of tobacco. We should listen to the American Cancer Society that wrote to the committee today and said just using the money for Medicare is not adequate. We should listen to the American Lung Association that said in a letter to the committee today, just

using the money for Medicare is not going to help us solve the challenge of addiction, disease, and death brought to this country by the use of tobacco products.

Madam President, hopefully, before this matter is resolved out here on the Senate floor, we will be able to get together on a comprehensive plan. I hope we are able to do that. I dedicate myself to that purpose, and I hope other Senators will as well.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW  
AT 9:30 A.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 19.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:04 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 19, 1998, at 9:30 a.m.