

I salute my colleagues and thank them for all of their kindnesses to me. Now I am off to my second 15,000.

As Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "The rule of joy and the law of duty seem to me all one."

(Applause, Senators rising.)

Mr. DASCHLE. 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. LAUTENBERG. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, while Senator BYRD is here, I would like to take this opportunity to make just a few remarks, daring to venture into the lion's den because of the eloquence that Senator BYRD brings to his thought and to his speech.

I have been a long-time admirer of Senator BYRD. I have been here 16 years. As I looked around the room, I noted that there were only six others who had been here as long as I have, which gives me a relative senior status, although the Chamber wasn't filled, and I regret that it wasn't because I know that everybody responds the same way as I do when Senator BYRD speaks. You always learn something of quite an incredible nature, and we are always in awe of his intellect and his memory.

I will never forget my earliest days here when I went in to visit Senator BYRD because I was anxious to serve on the Appropriations Committee. And Senator BYRD gave me a treatise on English kings, reaching back, I think, somewhere before William the Conqueror. I am not going to try to duplicate anything that Senator BYRD said by way of recall, but I remember that that was in the 1000s, I guess. And I listened while Senator BYRD talked about Ethelberht and all of those, and how each one succeeded the other and how each one died and how long each one served. I walked out shaking my head, and I said, "What is there about this man that enables him to remember so much for such a long period of time?"

Senator BYRD cast his 15,000th vote this day, and he is our Babe Ruth, there is no doubt about that, having accomplished things that none other before him ever accomplished. But it is not just the votes. As the Senator said, it is the quality; it is the kind of votes that we are casting.

I asked Senator BYRD before he stood up to make his remarks did he have any regrets. And he repeated publicly what he said to me privately—there were a few. But I think he probably remembers darned near every vote that he has cast. He certainly remembers those that were of major magnitude.

There are a few of us in this room, Senator BYRD, who are not going to cast 15,000 votes. I would like to do it, but I may have to do it from some

place on high. Not only do we treasure Senator BYRD's presence here, but for me one of the great honors of having served in this body, and I consider it a tremendous honor; I come from immigrant parents. They came early in the century as little children, but their aspirations were limited, never suspecting, though always believing that it could happen to their son, that I would have the distinction of serving in this body.

Senator BYRD reminds us that only 1,840-some have ever served here since the founding of this country. And when I opened my desk top, I saw that one of the names in there was Truman, Missouri, and wherever I moved, Senator BYRD, I have always taken that desk with me. So there is so much honor and so much grace that falls our way, but one of the great honors for me has been to serve with you, Senator BYRD, master of all about the Senate. I don't think anyone ever loved the body with the same depth of interest, not just affection, as Senator BYRD has shown us in his years here. It is always an uplifting experience to listen to Senator BYRD talk about the Senate and to bring us to our dignity by asking us once in a while to sit down and cast our vote from our seats. It is for me, relatively seasoned, a refresher about the dignity of this body and the removal from the squabble and the hostility that sometimes has occasion to rise here. It doesn't make it any less of a distinction or a privilege to serve here, but every now and then, Senator BYRD, I thank you for bringing us back to our senses about where we are in this great Nation of ours and how fortunate we are to have known one another.

But you, Senator BYRD, have, I think—I come out of the computer business—probably been a model for those who wanted to construct a computer that would have vast memory, quick response, and developed intelligence, not artificial at all but real, and I salute you on this 15,000th vote to say that I know, for as long as I serve in this body, you will continue to inspire and encourage all of us, and I thank you for the contribution you have made to the country and to me as well.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator from New Jersey for his overly gracious and more than charitable remarks. I am grateful for them. I hope that he will never have cause to have a second thought about what he has just said. I hope that I can justify his faith and his confidence and his high estimation of me and my work here. May I say that I won't ever forget his kind words. I am grateful for them. I am glad to be in the Senate with Senator LAUTENBERG. He has been my friend, he is my friend, and he will always be my friend.

I thank the Senator very much.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, may I say thank you again, Senator BYRD, for

your vote and for your comments. They are always very enlightening.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Senator.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RESTRUCTURING AND REFORM ACT OF 1998

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, Senator DASCHLE and I have been working throughout the day to get an agreement that will allow us to come to a fair and reasonable conclusion to the IRS restructuring and reform bill. We have been able to work out, I think, a fair agreement, and I would like to propound that.

I ask unanimous consent that with respect to H.R. 2676 all amendments be relevant to the bill except amendments to title VI must be both relevant and cleared by both the managers and leaders, one amendment offered by the chairman that pays for the cost of the legislation, with no second-degree amendments in order, one amendment offered by Senator KERREY that also pays for the legislation, with no second-degree amendments, and it not be in order prior to the conclusion of debate on the chairman's "pay for" amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. D'AMATO addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I do not object, but I rise to make a point that I would hope it would be appropriate at this time to reserve the right, but I do not intend to object.

I understand that oftentimes my colleagues work long and hard to craft legislation that they believe is in the best interests of their constituents and the people of this country, and that we do not always have the freedom and luxury for whatever the reason to offer such legislation. Indeed, I have been working with a number of my colleagues, Senator FEINSTEIN and others, on a piece of legislation that I think is absolutely essential and should not be delayed; that every day it is delayed causes anguish for women throughout this country, for families without this country when they are denied basic treatment in terms of their medical needs. And I am talking about those who face cancer, breast cancer in particular, who are forced to leave a hospital because their insurance policy limits the length of stay and/or they are denied basic treatment, reconstructive surgery. And, indeed, just within the past 6 weeks we have had two cases that have come to my attention personally in my State, but it is happening throughout this country, where medical plans deny them these basic rights, the right to reconstructive surgery after a radical mastectomy.

I have taken the time and impinged upon and imposed upon the time of the two leaders here because I feel strongly

about this, because this is taking place. I believe it is an unwarranted and unintended consequence that brought this upon us, by passage of the ERISA law, which keeps States from putting on these reasonable conditions. It says, basically, a woman should be entitled to this kind of coverage. Unfortunately, there are some who say we should not have mandates. It is unfortunate that we might have to, and do have to, mandate in this case because there are millions and millions of American women who do not have this basic protection and right.

I am fully intending to, and I said to my colleagues on the Finance Committee that I would, offer this legislative proposal that would see to it that this grievous situation is rectified. I intended to do it here on the IRS reform bill, because this is a bill that will pass. This is a bill that is necessary. This is a bill that my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, have worked on long and hard. And it will be signed into law.

I also know that if we ever get an opportunity to bring the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act to this floor it will pass overwhelmingly.

For a number of reasons we have not been able to do that. The two leaders have indicated to me, and have asked me to withhold, because there are other laudable, and I am sure very worthy, amendments that my colleagues have agreed not to put forth. They have assured me they will seek to give us an opportunity—Senator FEINSTEIN and myself and the other 20 cosponsors—to bring up this amendment. It is not a costly amendment but will save lives. It will save families. It will ensure that women get the proper kind of care they can and should be getting. It is unfortunate that we need this kind of legislation. They will attempt to give us an opportunity of some 2 hours this Tuesday to bring forth this legislation.

On that basis, I will not object. But I have to tell my colleagues, it is a year and a half now. There is a lot of pain. A lot of people have been denied that which they should have had. A lot of people have been forced to go to appeals, to appeal through the boards that administer many of these programs, their self-insured programs, to get this basic right. I don't think that we want to, nor should we, continue this nor countenance this any longer.

On the assurance that we are going to attempt and really make a good-faith effort to bring this to the floor Tuesday, I will withdraw any objection and go along. I thank my colleagues for recognizing the plight of families in America in attempting to work with us in a way that collectively we can solve that problem.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Hearing none, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Having reached this agreement, there will be no further votes this evening.

After Senator DASCHLE makes his comments, I do want to respond and comment on the fact that, frankly, Senators on both sides of the aisle have had to hold back and be cooperative. This was not easy to reach. But this is a very important piece of legislation that has been crafted in a bipartisan way. If we didn't get this agreement, we could have been working on it for days and weeks and it would have wound up pushing everything down the line, many bills that we do want to do and can do.

So I appreciate the cooperation and I appreciate that Senator DASCHLE has had to work very hard. I could start naming Senators on this side and he can start naming Senators on that side who had good and valid amendments. But I think we did the right thing. After the Senator comments, I would like to respond further to Senator D'AMATO's generosity and very responsible action and talk about what we are going to try to do to be helpful.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, the majority leader has spoken well about the difficulty of this agreement. This was, I told him, one of the more difficult, if not the most difficult we have had in some time. I could name 30 Senators on this side of the aisle who have very important amendments, who are very concerned about the lack of an opportunity to offer these amendments on this bill or on other bills. So I, first, thank them for their cooperation and for their support in allowing us to move forward, as we are tonight. I believe there must come a time when this pent-up demand to offer some of this legislation has to be addressed. I will be speaking with the majority leader about that as we go through the schedule for the next couple of weeks.

I might say, a major factor—and I have indicated this to the majority leader—in our ability to reach this agreement was his assurance that we were also going to take up, in a timely way, some other very critical pieces of legislation this agreement allows us to take up. First and foremost is a crop insurance and research bill that I have assured my colleagues will be taken up, if at all possible, this week. We don't know how long the amendment process will take. But the majority leader has assured me it is the next bill. So I thank him for that and, as I have indicated to him privately and I will say again publicly, that was a major consideration. Another was our strong desire to get on with the consideration of the tobacco bill. The majority leader has assured me that we will do that as well.

So we have an array of matters that must be addressed. It was in keeping with our understanding of the workload this month that a lot of our Democratic colleagues were willing to

concede the recognition of the importance of this particular agreement.

Let me address what I hope is not a misunderstanding. I don't know of any particular agreement with regard to the bill referred to by the distinguished Senator from New York, except to say that I am very sympathetic with what he is attempting to do. Many of our colleagues on this side of the aisle will wish to be heard on that bill and will wish to offer amendments. So I will work with the majority leader to schedule some time for us to consider this bill, and we will do our best to accommodate all Senators as they are called upon to debate and offer their amendments. But we will negotiate in good faith and attempt to come up with the best agreement we can.

Mr. KERREY. Will the Democratic leader yield?

Mr. DASCHLE. I am happy to yield.

Mr. KERREY. Just to inform both the Democratic leader and the majority leader, it would be Senator ROTH's intention and my intention at 9:30 to take up both of the funding amendments and to have two back-to-back rollcall votes at 10:30, or close to that, unless we yield time back, so you and other colleagues can plan.

Mr. DASCHLE. I only have two final points, Mr. President. The first is that this is the 6-month anniversary of the passage of this legislation in the House of Representatives. We cannot afford to wait any longer. We must pass this bill. The urgency is recognized by this agreement. I appreciate that very much.

The final point is that there are a number of Senators who, in good faith, will be offering amendments they truly believe are relevant. I don't know how one defines the relevance of amendments, but I hope we can work with our Parliamentarian and with the Presiding Officers to accommodate our colleagues, as relevance is contemplated and defined. This is a very important matter for a lot of Senators. This is a rare vehicle that they will have to offer legislation. I am hopeful we can accommodate as many Senators as possible with relevant amendments.

Again, I thank all cooperating Senators and appreciate, once more, the chance to resolve this matter with the majority leader.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would like to say, before Senator KERREY leaves the floor, that the time that he outlined so both Senators could explain what is in the amendments that would pay for the costs of these corrections at IRS sounds fine. If we could have votes by 10:30 in the morning, I don't see any problem with that, two back to back at 10:30.

Let me say to Senator D'AMATO, once again, I appreciate his cooperation here, and it is not the first time he has cooperated this year on a lot of issues. But on this issue in particular, I know how strongly he feels about it and I am absolutely satisfied that he is going to

get a vote on this issue, and he should get a vote on this issue, and I am going to work with him to make that happen in a reasonable way.

I will work with you to try to see if we can get an agreement to bring this up next week. It is going to take work on your part and on my part. Senator DASCHLE has a number of Senators who have views, or amendments even, on this. That is a problem, because it could very easily get totally out of control and have the whole world caving in on it. But we will work on that.

If, for some reason, that does not work out, every bill that comes along will be a prospect for an amendment, for the Senator's amendment.

Mr. D'AMATO. If the majority leader might yield at this point just for an observation? I want my colleagues to understand that we are going to vote on this one way or the other. I am committed to it. I have, on a number of occasions now, so as to provide the opportunity for this body to do its business—no one Senator, including this Senator, should put himself or herself above the interests of the body. I have attempted to respect that. I mean that. I have not attempted to delay.

Mr. LOTT. Let me say, you certainly have. You have been very responsible and you have been very cooperative, but you also made very clear your determination on this amendment. I understand that, and I am going to try to help you find a way to get it done.

Mr. D'AMATO. Good, because I will wait for something all my colleagues want, and we may be here a long time. I don't think that is going to serve anybody's interest. I would like everyone to join in. If they can make this bill a better bill truly in that spirit, then let's do it. If it is just to weight it down and sink it, that is not something I am going to take as being responsible, and we will talk to that.

Everybody has a right to do what they want out here in the open. People can judge whether they are being responsible or not. I hope in that spirit, because we have done a lot of good things together, I remind my colleagues on both sides, it is in that spirit I would like to approach it. I thank the majority leader for understanding and the minority leader. I look forward to working with them both.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you very much. I yield the floor, Mr. President.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on behalf of our majority leader, I ask

unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each, with the exception of the Senator from Iowa who requests 11 minutes.

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

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, May 4, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,477,263,228,571.00 (Five trillion, four hundred seventy-seven billion, two hundred sixty-three million, two hundred twenty-eight thousand, five hundred seventy-one dollars and zero cents).

Five years ago, May 4, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,240,752,000,000 (Four trillion, two hundred forty billion, seven hundred fifty-two million).

Ten years ago, May 4, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,514,920,000,000 (Two trillion, five hundred fourteen billion, nine hundred twenty million).

Fifteen years ago, May 4, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,262,026,000,000 (One trillion, two hundred sixty-two billion, twenty-six million).

Twenty-five years ago, May 4, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$452,347,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-two billion, three hundred forty-seven million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,024,916,228,571.00 (Five trillion, twenty-four billion, nine hundred sixteen million, two hundred twenty-eight thousand, five hundred seventy-one dollars and zero cents) during the past 25 years.

HONORING THE REDDINGS ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, families are the cornerstone of America. The data are undeniable: Individuals from strong families contribute to the society. In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "till death us do part" seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity. These characteristics make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Pat and Don Redding of Kansas City, Missouri, who on May 23, 1998, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. The Redding's commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to

the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT CONCERNING THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SUDAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 119

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

I hereby report to the Congress on developments concerning the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, and matters relating to the measures in that order. This report is submitted pursuant to section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c). This report discusses only matters concerning the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067.

1. On November 3, 1997, I issued Executive Order 13067 (62 *Fed. Reg.* 59989, November 5, 1997—the "Order") to declare a national emergency with respect to Sudan pursuant to IEEPA. Copies of the Order were provided to the Congress by message dated November 3, 1997.

The Order blocks all property and interests in property of the Government of Sudan, its agencies, instrumentalities, and controlled entities, including the Central Bank of Sudan, that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of United States persons, including their overseas branches. The Order also prohibits (1) the importation into the United States of any goods or services of Sudanese origin except for information or informational materials; (2) the exportation or reexportation of goods, technology, or services to Sudan or the Government of Sudan except for information or informational materials and donations of humanitarian aid; (3) the facilitation by a United States person of the exportation or reexportation of goods, technology, or services to or from Sudan; (4) the performance by any United States person of any contract, including a financing contract, in support of an industrial, commercial, public utility, or governmental project in Sudan; (5) the grant or extension of credits or loans by any United States person to