

Midwest and the Northeast, they need to know that they have this money and how much so they can get started with projects now. The season is going to get away from them. So I hope every Senator will keep that in mind and allow us to get this to completion.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. I would like to say to all Senators, with regard to the week we are coming back. I have been discussing this with Senator DASCHLE. When we complete this infrastructure transportation bill, ISTEA II, and dispose of that, that will be the last vote or action of this week, other than doing some Executive Calendar matters we are trying to clear. The next vote will not occur until Tuesday when we come back. That would be June 2. But when we return on Monday, June 1, we will continue to debate the tobacco bill, and the pending issue is the Durbin amendment. Of course, there are other amendments that are pending. We will be talking back and forth over the next week as to exactly how the process will go forward.

On that Tuesday, the 2nd, the Senate will conduct a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the nuclear waste bill, which I will put in place in the next few minutes, as well as amendment votes relative to the tobacco legislation.

I do want to emphasize, the nuclear waste issue we intend to double track. That is one where we can take an action and then come off of that and go, then, to other legislation, the tobacco legislation. And it will take a period of days to get through the process we have to go on, on nuclear waste. But that is not intended to take the place of either the tobacco bill or the Department of Defense authorization bill. It will be double tracking as we go forward.

So I expect the Senate will be considering the tobacco bill and the nuclear waste bill during the first week in June. If problems arise with regard to either one of those, the other issue that we have already done some work on, and we want to go back to at the first opportunity, would be the Department of Defense authorization bill. We need to get that completed so we can then go to the appropriations side of the defense bill. I know that first week back will be a busy one because we have a lot of important work to do. We will be in session on Monday, but we will not have recorded votes on that Monday.

Senator DASCHLE, did you want to comment or ask a question on that?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. I appreciate the information the majority leader has just shared. I think that is certainly in keeping with the understanding that he and I have had in our private discussions now for some time. My hope is that we can come back and complete

our work on the tobacco bill. I believe that is certainly within our reach.

I understand, because of the plethora of other bills that are on the calendar, we have to begin consideration of other issues. We have some amendments and bills that we want to raise at some point as well. But I think this schedule accommodates the demands that we are going to have on our schedule for the balance of the month of June, and I am hopeful that we can see the same level of cooperation on both sides of the aisle with that schedule that we have had over the course of the last 2 or 3 weeks.

I certainly have no objections to proceeding as the majority leader has suggested, certainly with the expectation that we will complete our work on the tobacco bill early when we come back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT— MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now turn to consideration of Calendar No. 312, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection heard.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LOTT. In light of the objection, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 312 and send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provision of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 312, H.R. 1270, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act:

Trent Lott, Frank H. Murkowski, Chuck Hagel, Slade Gorton, Pat Roberts, Olympia J. Snowe, Jon Kyl, Tim Hutchinson, Rod Grams, Spencer Abraham, Pete Domenici, Bill Roth, Don Nickles, Thad Cochran, Michael B. Enzi, Charles Grassley.

Mr. LOTT. I now withdraw the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to proceed is withdrawn.

Mr. LOTT. For the information of all Senators, the cloture vote will occur on Tuesday, June 20, at a time to be determined by the majority leader after consultation with the minority leader.

I ask unanimous consent the live quorum call under rule XXII be waived.

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

AUTHORITY TO FILE REPORTED ITEMS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday, May

27, the committees have from the hours 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., in order to file legislative or executive reported items.

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

ORDER FOR STAR PRINT—S. 981

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the report to accompany S. 981, the Regulatory Improvement Act of 1998, be star printed, with changes that are at the desk.

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

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT CHANDRIKA BANDARANAIKE KUMARATUNGA AND THE PEOPLE OF SRI LANKA ON 50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 372, S. Res. 172.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The resolution (S. Res. 172) congratulating President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the celebration of 50 years of independence.

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 the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution appear in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 172) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 172

Whereas February 4, 1998, is the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the independence of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka from Britain;

Whereas the present constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has been in existence since August 16, 1978, and guarantees universal suffrage; and

Whereas the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the United States share many values, including a common belief in democratic principles, a commitment to international cooperation, and promotion of enhanced trade and cultural ties: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the celebration of 50 years of independence;

(2) expresses best wishes to the Government and people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as they celebrate their national day of independence on February 4, 1998; and

(3) looks forward to continued cooperation and friendship with the Government and people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in the years ahead.

SEC. 2. TRANSMITTAL OF RESOLUTION.

The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

RESOLUTION REGARDING ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP IN A UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL GROUP

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 373, S. Res. 188.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 188) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Israeli membership in a United Nations regional group.

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 the resolution and the preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution appear in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 188) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 188

Whereas, of the 185 member states of the United Nations, only the State of Israel is ineligible to sit on the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, or any other United Nations committee;

Whereas the State of Israel was created in response to a 1947 General Assembly resolution and joined the United Nations in 1949;

Whereas the members of the United Nations have organized themselves according to regional groups since 1946;

Whereas eligibility for election to the rotating seats of the Security Council, or other United Nations councils, commissions, or committees, is only available to countries belonging to a regional group;

Whereas Israel has remained a member of the United Nations despite being subjected to deliberate attacks which aimed to place the legitimacy of the State of Israel in question;

Whereas this anachronistic Cold War isolation of Israel at the United Nations continues;

Whereas barring a member of the United Nations from entering a regional group is inimical to the principles under which the United Nations was founded, namely, "to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights . . ."; and

Whereas Israel is a vibrant democracy, which shares the values, goals, and interests of the "Western European and Others Group", a regional group which includes Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) it should be the policy of the United States to support the State of Israel's efforts to enter an appropriate United Nations regional group;

(2) the President should instruct the Permanent Representative of the United States

to the United Nations to carry out this policy;

(3) the United States should—

(A) insist that any efforts to reform the United Nations, including the Security Council, also resolve this anomaly; and

(B) ensure that the principle of sovereign equality be upheld without exception; and

(4) the Secretary of State should submit a report to Congress on the steps taken by the United States, the Secretary General of the United Nations, and others to help secure Israel's membership in an appropriate United Nations regional group.

APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to P. L. 103-227, appoints the following individuals to the National Skill Standards Board:

Upon the recommendation of the Democratic Leader: Tim C. Flynn, of South Dakota, Representative of Business; Jerald A. Tunheim, of South Dakota, Representative of Human Resource Professionals.

APPOINTMENT BY THE MAJORITY LEADER AND MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the two leaders, pursuant to provisions of S. Res. 98, agreed to July 25, 1997, the appointment of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. KERREY) to the Global Climate Change Observer Group, vice the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN).

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—CONFERENCE REPORT TO AC-COMPANY H.R. 2400

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the ISTECA conference report notwithstanding the receipt of the papers and the reading be considered dispensed with.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts reserves the right to object.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, as I have discussed with the distinguished majority leader, I do not want to slow up the proceedings. I never have. I am trying to simply resolve a couple of last-minute details. So I am constrained to object, at least for a few moments, until Senator CHAFFEE can finish doing what he is doing and we have a chance to confer. I assure my colleagues, this should not be a long-term process, and I hope we can resolve it very, very quickly, but I do object at this moment.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I understand, as one of the managers of the bill, we can speak at some length here.

But is there desire that someone wish to have a minute or two?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I was going to use about 2 minutes to thank the distinguished chairman of our subcommittee, the Senator from Virginia, and say kind things about him. But if he wishes—

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I yield the floor instantly.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to say a very quick word or two about the TEA-21, I believe, Transportation Efficiency Act of the year 2000 and to express my deep appreciation for the leadership that Chairman CHAFFEE, Chairman WARNER and Senator BAUCUS have provided. This, as has been said, is one of the very largest bills that we have acted upon. It has an impact on each of our States and will have for the next 6 years.

It has been a very difficult fight to raise the dollars necessary and to allocate them fairly. I express the deepest appreciation to all three of my colleagues I mentioned.

I want to say what tremendous work has been done by the staff on the majority side, Jimmie Powell, Ann Loomis, Dan Corbett; on the minority side, Tom Sliter and Kathy Ruffalo.

On my own staff, Tracy Henke has worked literally hundreds of hours and has had very little sleep, as all of the staff on Environment and Public Works. They have done an outstanding job.

When we started this process, I said there were five essential goals: Increase the funding for highways. We need a bigger pie. We need, for the State of Missouri, to get a fair share. We must upgrade and repair deteriorating bridges. We need to put the trust back into the highway trust fund so that people who pay gas taxes into the trust fund will know that those gas taxes are coming back to build better roads, bridges, highways and transportation system. Finally, there should be flexibility so the States and localities can get the most for their money.

I am delighted they have approved all those principles. I note for the Record what I have noted in committees, in conferences, in individual discussions. I have grave and deep problems with and do not agree with the use of the funds from a newly and administratively created veterans' smoking program to offset the expenditures of the highway fund. I believe the highway fund should be spent for highways; veterans' funds should be spent for veterans. I have fought those battles; I have lost those battles because the President has insisted on using that as an offset. I intend to come back and work with colleagues, such as Chairman SPECTER of the Veterans' Committee, Senator MCCAIN, Senator SMITH and others to put a good veterans health care measure into the next vehicle, and I believe that is probably going to be the tobacco bill.