

imperial presidency"—and we have seen an imperial presidency in this land—would be destroyed."

It is a power too sacred to be trifled with. As Lyndon Baines Johnson said on March 9, 1949:

* * * if I should have the opportunity to send into the countries behind the iron curtain one freedom and only one, I know what my choice would be. * * * I would send to those nations the right of unlimited debate in their legislative chambers.

Peter the Great did not have a Senate with unlimited debate, with power over the purse, when he enslaved hundreds of thousands of men in the building of Saint Petersburg.

* * * If we now, in the haste and irritation, shut off this freedom, we shall be cutting off the most vital safeguard which minorities possess against the tyranny of momentary majorities.

As one who has served both as majority leader and as minority leader, as a senator who has engaged both in filibustering and in breaking filibusters during my thirty-one years in this body, I believe that Rule XXII today strikes a fair and proper balance between the need to protect the minority against hasty and arbitrary action by a majority and the need for the Senate to be able to act on matters vital to the public interest. More drastic cloture than the rules now provide is neither necessary nor desirable.

We must not forget that the right of extended, and even unlimited, debate is the main cornerstone of the Senate's uniqueness. It is also a primary reason that the United States Senate is the most powerful upper chamber in the world today. The occasional abuse of this right has been, at times, a painful side effect, but it never has been and never will be fatal to the overall public good in the long run. Without the right of unlimited debate, of course, there would be no filibusters, but there would also be no Senate, as we know it. The good outweighs the bad, even though they may have been exasperating, contentious, and perceived as iniquitous. Filibusters are necessary evil, which must be tolerated lest the Senate lose its special strength and become a mere appendage of the House of Representatives. If this should happen, which God avert, the American Senate would cease to be "that remarkable body" about which William Ewart Gladstone spoke—"the most remarkable of all the inventions of modern politics."

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNETT). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ADDITIONAL COSPONSOR TO S. 2

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be added as a cosponsor of S. 2.

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

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 2, the congressional coverage bill introduced earlier today, be placed on the calendar.

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

ORDERS OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 10:15 on Thursday, January 5, 1995, the Senate resume consideration of Senate Resolution 14, and at that time the debate on the Harkin amendment prior to a motion to table be divided in the following manner: 30 minutes under the control of Senator BYRD and 45 minutes under the control of Senator HARKIN. I further ask unanimous consent that at 11:30 a.m., the majority leader or his designee be recognized to make the motion to table amendment No. 1. I ask unanimous consent further that, if the amendment is not tabled, it be subject to further debate and amendment. I further ask unanimous consent that if the amendment is tabled, the Senate proceed immediately to adoption of the resolution without any intervening action or debate. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that immediately following the adoption of the resolution the Senate proceed to S. 2, the congressional coverage bill.

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

"DISPLACED STAFF MEMBER"

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send an enclosed resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:
S. RES. 25

Resolved, That, for the purpose of section 6 of Senate Resolution 458 of the 98th Congress (agreed to October 4, 1984), the term "displaced staff member" includes an employee in the office of the Minority Whip who was an employee in that office on January 1, 1995, and whose service is terminated on or after January 1, 1995, solely and directly as a result of the change of the individual occupying the position of Minority Whip and who is so certified by the individual who was the Minority Whip on January 1, 1995.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no debate on the resolution, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 25) was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. FORD. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The resolution is as follows:

Resolved, That, for the purpose of section 6 of Senate Resolution 458 of the 98th Congress

(agreed to October 4, 1984), the term "displaced staff member" includes an employee in the office of the Minority Whip who was an employee in that office on January 1, 1995, and whose service is terminated on or after January 1, 1995, solely and directed as a result of the change of the individual occupying the position of Minority Whip and who is so certified by the individual who was the Minority Whip on January 1, 1995.

AWARDS FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send a bill to the desk and ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill to amend section 526 of Title 28, United States Code, to authorize awards for attorneys' fees.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask for a second reading.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

MODIFICATION OF SENATE RESOLUTION 16

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to modify S. Res. 16 adopted earlier today with language which I now send to the desk. This modification has been cleared by the majority leader and it does not change the ratio agreed to.

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

MODIFICATION OF SENATE RESOLUTION 17

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. Res. 17 adopted earlier today be modified by the following language, which I send to the desk. This request has been cleared by the majority leader and does not alter our agreements with the committee ratios.

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

THE SENATE GIFT RULE

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I understand that S. 71 regarding the Senate gift rule introduced earlier today by Senators WELLSTONE and FEINGOLD is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 71) regarding the Senate gift rule.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I ask for its second reading.

Mr. LOTT. I object, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.