

from Michigan, suggests the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RETIREMENT OF CHICK REYNOLDS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, Chick Reynolds, chief reporter of the Official Reporters of Debates, will retire from the Senate effective July 7, 1995.

Mr. Reynolds' career in stenotype reporting began in 1949, when he was employed by the Department of Defense. In 1950, he went to work for the Alderson Reporting Co. in Washington, DC, where he stayed until 1971, at which time he opened his own stenographic reporting firm. In 1974, he was appointed an official reporter with the Senate Official Reporters of Debates and became chief reporter in 1988.

During his working career as a stenotype reporter, Chick was considered one of the fastest and most accurate writers in the country.

His assignments covered every aspect of his profession, some of which put him in the center of the headlines of the day. He reported Federal agency hearings and various committees in both the House and the Senate. He reported the Joseph McCarthy and Jimmy Hoffa hearings on Capitol Hill. He was assigned to cover the White House during the Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon administrations. During his assignment with the Kennedy administration, he reported President Kennedy's famous Berlin speech and was also in the Presidential motorcade on that tragic day in Dallas, TX, when President Kennedy was assassinated.

Mr. Reynolds has served the Senate and the Nation with distinction and loyalty for the past 21 years.

I know all Senators will join me in thanking Chick for his long and dedicated service, and extending our prayerful wishes to him and his wife, Lucille, in the coming days.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

REGULATORY TRANSITION ACT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, this is the first chapter of one of the most significant debates that will occur during the 104th Congress: the debate about regulatory reform.

If we take the right approach to regulatory reform, we can provide more protection for public health. At the same time, we can cut costs and cut red tape.

But if we take the wrong approach, we may jeopardize public health. And we may create more redtape, litigation, and delay.

So the stakes are high. Fortunately, it looks like we are getting off to a good start.

Last week, I was not so sure. We faced a short term moratorium that would have blocked some urgently needed rules. We also faced a long-term reform bill that would repeal some of the laws that protect our air, our water, and our neighborhoods.

In both cases, we seem to be coming to our senses. The moratorium is about to be replaced with the Nickles-Reid amendment. And the Government Affairs Committee declined to adopt radical versions of long-term regulatory reform. Instead, it reported a solid, bipartisan bill.

CONCERNS ABOUT THE MORATORIUM

Today we are considering the bill to impose a short-term moratorium. Let me briefly explain why such a flat, broad-based moratorium is a bad idea.

In a nutshell, it does not distinguish good rules from bad.

All too many rules fall into the second category: stupid, unnecessary rules that impose high costs and just plain make people angry.

For example, OSHA recently proposed new rules that would require loggers to wear steel-toed boots.

Seems to make sense. Unless you are working in western Montana in winter, on a steep slope and frozen ground. In that case, steel-toed boots may be slippery and unsafe. Especially if you are carrying a live chain saw.

For that reason, western Montana loggers thought that the rules made no sense at all. So we convinced OSHA to back off, talk to Montana loggers, and reconsider. But there are other rules that do make sense. That protect public health. That protect the environment. And that are urgently needed.

Yesterday, Senator GLENN gave some very compelling examples: E. coli; airline safety; radioactive waste; and others.

Let me mention one such rule, which is of particular concern to the Environment and Public Works Committee. It is the rule, or cluster of rules, for cryptosporidium. Cryptosporidium is a deadly pathogen. It occurs in drinking water. As we all know, it was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of people, and the illness of hundreds of thousands more, in Milwaukee.

EPA has been working with public water suppliers to develop an information collection rule. This rule will provide EPA, States, and public water suppliers with critical information about the occurrence of cryptosporidium and other pathogens. It also will provide information about the effectiveness of various treatment methods. It will be

the cornerstone of our efforts to prevent further poisoning.

However, if the moratorium is enacted, the information collection rule cannot be issued. If that happens, water suppliers will not be able to monitor for cryptosporidium during spring runoff, when it is thought to be more prevalent. That will prevent us from gathering data for at least another year. And that, in turn, will further delay the development of an effective treatment method. As a result, we will run the risk that another outbreak will occur, and that hundreds more people will die.

THE NICKLES-REID AMENDMENT

Fortunately, the moratorium is being withdrawn, at least for now. Instead, we are considering the Nickles-Reid amendment.

To my mind, this amendment is much closer to the mark. It requires that Government agencies submit their new rules to Congress. And it sets up a fast-track process for reviewing those rules. That way, Congress can distinguish good rules from bad. If an agency goes haywire, like OSHA did with its logging rule, Congress can reject the rule. But if an agency is doing a good job, the rule will go into effect, and public health will not be jeopardized.

Of course, the amendment is not perfect. In particular, I hope that we can improve some of the fast-track procedures. But, on balance, the Nickles-Reid amendment improves the process for reviewing agency rules.

CONCLUSION

Mr. President, I also believe that the Nickles-Reid amendment does something more. It sets the right tone for the upcoming debate about regulatory reform. We must get past the slogans, and get down to the hard work of making Government rules more effective and understandable.

I look forward to continuing to work with the members of the Government Affairs Committee and with all Senators to accomplish this important objective.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I might mention to our colleagues that we have made significant progress in the last couple of hours in negotiations on a few amendments. I appreciate the cooperation of Senator REID, and also Senator LEVIN, Senator GLENN, and Senator DOMENICI, who have had some amendments, and we are working those out. Hopefully, we will be able to agree to some of those.

I might mention to my colleagues, I discussed this with the majority leader, and he very much would like to pass this bill tonight. It is our expectation to finish this bill tonight, partly because we need to go to the supplemental appropriations or the rescissions bill that was reported out of the Appropriations Committee last Friday. That may take some time.

So the majority leader has let it be known that he plans to go to that bill tomorrow. So we need to finish this bill.