

limitations during the pendency of the conference report: Senator BIDEN be recognized to make a motion to recommit, with 30 minutes of debate on the motion, and with that time under the control of the Senator BIDEN; that when that time is used or yielded back, the motion to recommit be withdrawn; that there be 60 minutes for debate to be equally divided between Senators CHAFFEE and BAUCUS or their designees, 60 minutes under the control of Senator LAUTENBERG or his designee, and 15 minutes of time under the control of Senator GLENN; and that upon the conclusion or yielding back of all time, the Senate proceed to vote on adoption of the conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. HARKIN. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. HARKIN. Reserving the right to object, I might ask, Mr. President—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. This unanimous consent was to take up certain bills tomorrow?

Mr. COATS. A conference report.

Mr. HARKIN. A conference report.

Mr. COATS. S. 440, the highway system designation bill.

Mr. HARKIN. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, I would like to ask the proponent of the unanimous consent request, the Senator from Indiana objected to taking up the Boxer bill because, he stated, there was an understanding there would be no more votes today. It would seem to me that we could take up the Boxer bill with an understanding we would vote tomorrow, or take it up and add it to this list. I wonder if the Senator would add the Boxer bill to this list to take up tomorrow and we can put a time certain, we can just put an hour of debate on it and vote on it, a half-hour. That would be fine.

Mr. COATS. I would just reply to the Senator from Iowa, there are a number of Senators who have expressed either support for or opposition to this legislation. They are not now in the Chamber because they were informed that the Senate essentially concluded its business. I cannot speak on their behalf or add unanimous consent on their behalf without contacting them. And obviously they have left the Chamber.

Mr. HARKIN. No one contacted this Senator to ask if it was OK to take up these measures tomorrow.

Mr. COATS. It was cleared with the minority leader. It was hotlined to all Senators and has been cleared both by the majority—

Mr. HARKIN. I apologize. If it was, I apologize.

Mr. COATS. I have a second unanimous-consent which has also been hotlined and cleared, just setting the orders for tomorrow. I am not closing out the business of the day.

Mr. HARKIN. I apologize. If it was hotlined, I apologize.

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

Mr. COATS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1995

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until the hour of 10 a.m. on Friday, November 17; that following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved to date, no resolutions come over under the rule, the call of the calendar be dispensed with, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin consideration of the conference report to accompany S. 440, the national highway bill, as under the previous agreement.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, there will be a rollcall vote on the National Highway System conference report on Friday.

The Senate will also consider the Balanced Budget Act conference report during tomorrow's session. That conference report has a statutory limitation of 10 hours of debate. Members can therefore expect a late night session on Friday. Also, additional appropriations conference reports may become available from the House. Therefore, rollcall votes can be expected throughout Friday's session.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

NO BUDGET-NO PAY

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I wish to add a few comments to the issue that the Senator from California raised with respect to legislation that would require that Members of Congress and the President be treated in the same manner as those Federal employees whose pay will be suspended during this period of a shutdown.

I think we all recognize the hardships this poses to the hundreds of thousands of Federal employees across the country. I think at the same time we are experiencing this shutdown, Members of Congress and the President should have their pay suspended.

That is why I have introduced this legislation that complements the legislation introduced by the Senator from California and that is now part of the DC appropriations bill. But until such time as that becomes law, we still have

to address this issue with respect to this present shutdown and making it retroactive. I just do not happen to believe that we as Members of Congress and the President should be treated any differently.

I regret that we have not been able to bring this legislation up tonight so that we have a chance to put ourselves in the same position as every other Federal employee. That is what this legislation would do. Interestingly enough, it has the support of 21 Members of this Senate, including the Senate majority leader. I worked with the Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER] on this issue as well.

We should be able to bring up this legislation, and we should be able to vote on it so that we move in the direction of being in the same position, sharing the same difficulties, the same economic hardships as those individuals who see their pay suspended during this period of time.

Unfortunately, we do not know how long this shutdown will continue. Nevertheless, I do not think that we as Members of Congress want to be viewed differently, putting ourselves into another group as we are going through this shutdown. We should not be immune or isolated from those difficulties that Federal employees are now experiencing.

That is true for those employees who work in our offices, and I have 15 such employees who are not working at this moment in time. Why should I not have my pay suspended if their pay is being suspended? I think most of us would agree. So I hope that we will be able to have this opportunity tomorrow to address this issue and to pass this legislation. It is a matter of fairness, and it is a matter of equity.

I hope the President signs the continuing resolution that just passed in the Senate and in the House of Representatives. But if that does not happen, we still would go on into a prolonged shutdown, and I do not think that we should be getting our pay, not experiencing any discomfort, while Federal employees who are not able to work and even those who are still not going to be paid at this moment in time.

So I urge my colleagues to insist that this legislation be considered tomorrow. I appreciate the support that is being given to this issue by the Senate majority leader. In fact, there were 21 of us who sent a letter to the Senate majority leader asking for this legislation to be considered, and he supports that effort. I hope everybody will do so because this is absolutely essential.

I think we are facing enormous difficulties as it is with public confidence in the political process, but I do not think that that confidence should be undermined further by the fact that we are somehow in this separate category, somewhat isolated from the problems that Federal employees are currently facing.