

to work on time, and we get to the doctor, and other places you have to go on a regular basis.

I hope my colleagues in the Senate will look at this and say it could be an important issue for some people—certainly, for some particular interest. Typically, it is the NRA pushing this interest, but discounting that, people have a right to vote. But I plead with my colleagues, please, don't punish the American people, or the American economy, and don't take the chance for that disruption, and don't diminish our ability for rapid movement if we have to in a moment of threat.

I hope the vote will say if you want to have this discussion, let's have it, but don't put a sword hanging over the head of Amtrak.

With that, I yield the floor and 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. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of Colorado). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, what is the status of the floor?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is considering H.R. 3288.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 11 a.m. tomorrow, September 16, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 3288 and Senator COBURN be recognized for up to 30 minutes and that Senator MURRAY be recognized for up to 10 minutes; that upon the use or yielding back of that time as has been specified, the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the amendments in the order listed below, with no second-degree amendment in order to any of the listed amendments prior to a vote in relation thereto; that prior to each vote there be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided and controlled in the usual form; that after the first vote in any sequence the succeeding votes be limited to 10 minutes each: Coburn amendment No. 2374; Coburn amendment No. 2377; Coburn amendment No. 2371; Coburn amendment No. 2370; Coburn amendment No. 2372; Wicker amendment No. 2366, as modified; and Vitter amendment No. 2376.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am going to send to the desk—I think it is already there—cloture motions on the substitute amendment and on the bill. I am certainly hopeful that cloture will not be necessary. Senator MURRAY is a wonderful manager. She does great work. She is working to come up with an agreement that will provide for consideration of other amendments to the bill, but we have not been able to get consent. I hope we can.

We have just entered into an agreement which will provide for votes in relation to seven pending amendments.

There are at least two pending amendments that will not require rollcall votes. Maybe some of the others won't. Members should expect up to five rollcall votes tomorrow morning starting around 11:30.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. President, I have at the desk a cloture motion on the substitute amendment.

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 provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the committee-reported substitute amendment to H.R. 3288, the Transportation, HUD and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

Harry Reid, Byron L. Dorgan, Mary L. Landrieu, Jon Tester, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Daniel K. Inouye, Richard J. Durbin, Mark Udall, Bernard Sanders, Patrick J. Leahy, Ben Nelson, Frank R. Lautenberg, Michael F. Bennet, Tom Udall, Blanche L. Lincoln, Herb Kohl.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have at the desk a cloture motion on the bill.

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 provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.R. 3288, the Transportation, HUD, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

Patty Murray, Daniel K. Inouye, Al Franken, Jon Tester, Benjamin L. Cardin, John D. Rockefeller, IV, Charles E. Schumer, Mark Begich, Mary L. Landrieu, Mark Udall, Byron L. Dorgan, Frank R. Lautenberg, Robert Menendez, Patrick J. Leahy, Dianne Feinstein, Barbara A. Mikulski, Harry Reid.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the mandatory quorum as required under rule XXII be waived.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE CONSTITUTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to call attention to the upcoming anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States of America. September 17, 1787, will mark the 222nd year that has passed since that final

meeting in Independence Hall, when 39 delegates supported the adoption of the Constitution.

Beginning on May 25, 1787, 55 delegates gathered almost daily in the State House in Philadelphia to revise the Articles of Confederation. By the middle of June, it became apparent to the delegates that merely amending of the Articles of Confederation would not suffice. These inspired men worked together to form a new government that would embody the principals of liberty, democracy, and equality. What resulted was an entirely new document designed to bind the individual States more firmly into one nation by ceding greater power to the central government while still respecting the sovereignty of the States and the rights of the people. After being signed in September of 1787, Congress sent printed copies of the Constitution to the State legislatures for ratification. By June 21, 1788, nine States had approved the Constitution, finally forming "a more perfect Union."

The Constitution of the United States of America stands today as our Nation's most sacred and inspired document. It is the oldest Constitution in the world and an enduring legacy of a generation of patriots eager to provide liberty and protection to the citizens of this new country. The Constitution is the basis for our laws, our rights, and our responsibilities as Americans. It is a gift for which we all should be grateful. As President Coolidge once remarked, "To live under the American Constitution is the greatest political privilege that was ever accorded to the human race."

As our country continues to age, year by year, the importance of the Constitution will never fade. It is a living document, and is as relevant now as it was to its framers in the 18th century. I call upon my colleagues in the Senate to join me in celebrating the signing of the Constitution, and in turn, the assurance of our freedoms as citizens of the United States of America.

CELEBRATION OF CARBON DAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this year, the State of Illinois has designated September 15, 2009, as Carbon Day. As an official State holiday, communities across the State are encouraged to focus on reducing our State's carbon footprint and preserving our environment. Schools, organizations, businesses, and communities throughout Illinois will participate in organized events ranging from tree plantings to those promoting recycling and composting.

Carbon Day allows Illinois residents to find their own ways to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and participate in the fight against global warming. Most of us don't think too much about how our daily activities contribute to greenhouse gases. This new State holiday asks people to think about that and offers ideas each of us can use to make a difference.