

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF EDWARD W. BROOKE, III, FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 19, which was introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 19) relative to the death of Edward W. Brooke, III, former United States Senator for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 19) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1) to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I now ask for a second reading on this measure, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, January 7, 2015; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10

minutes each; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the provisions of S. Res. 19 as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Senator Edward William Brooks III, of Massachusetts, following the remarks of Senator UDALL for 15 minutes and Senator MERKLEY for 15 minutes.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRASSLEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESOLUTION OVER, UNDER THE RULE—S. RES. 20

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I have a resolution at the desk of which Senator MERKLEY and I are cosponsors.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 20) limiting certain uses of the filibuster in the Senate to improve the legislative process.

Mr. UDALL. I ask for its immediate consideration and to send the resolution over, under the rule, I, therefore, object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The resolution will go over, under the rule.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about our continuing effort to change the Senate rules as we begin the 114th Congress. This is the same process Senators MERKLEY, Harkin, and I used at the beginning of the last Congress when we introduced a similar resolution. At that time, Majority Leader REID wanted to have the debate about reforming our rules after the inauguration.

He was willing to work with us and protect our interests until we could debate our proposal. By doing so, he preserved the right of a simple majority of this body to amend the rules in accordance with article I, section 5 of the Constitution.

I hope Majority Leader MCCONNELL will extend to us this same courtesy if he chooses to address other issues before rules reform.

It has been the tradition at the beginning of many Congresses that a majority of the Senate has asserted its right to adopt or amend the rules. Just as Senators of both parties have done in the past, we do not acquiesce to any provision of Senate rules—adopted by a previous Congress—that would deny the majority that right.

The resolution I am offering today is based on proposals we introduced at the start of the 112th and 113th Congresses. At that time, many called our efforts a power grab by the majority. But we were very clear. We would support these changes even if we were in the minority, and here we are today, reintroducing the reform package as Members of the minority.

These changes do not strip minority rights. They allow the body to function as our Founders intended. The heart of our proposal is the talking filibuster. The filibuster once was a tool that was used sparingly. It allowed the minority to be heard. Today it is abused too often and far too easily.

I have said many times that the Senate has become a graveyard for good ideas. The shovel is the broken filibuster and other procedural tactics.

The system is broken. But in the last election I think the message was clear. The electorate said: Fix it, do your job, and make the government work. That is what our resolution is intended to do.

Our reforms were not adopted in the last Congress, but we made some progress. Strong support for fixing the Senate led leaders REID and MCCONNELL to address the dysfunction in the Senate and make some moderate changes.

Unfortunately, it did not take long for the leaders' gentlemen's agreement to break down. In November 2013 the abuse of the rules—and the obstruction—reached a tipping point, and so the majority acted within the precedence of the Senate. We changed the rules to prevent the minority from abusing the rules and obstructing scores of qualified nominees for judicial and executive appointments.

I believe that drastic step was unfortunate, but it was also necessary. The minority has a right to voice objections but not to abuse the rules to obstruct justice by preventing judges from being confirmed or by preventing the President from getting his team in place.

By changing the rules, the 113th Senate was able to confirm 96 judges. In fact, it confirmed more judges than any modern Congress since 1980.

The 113th Congress also confirmed 293 executive nominations in 2014—the most since 2010.

That is an incredible change. It was a bold but necessary action. But it also led to even greater polarization in the Senate. That polarization could have been prevented if the Senate had adopted our reforms at the beginning of the 113th Congress.

That is why I strongly urge the new majority leader to continue the change