

I would urge the Senator to consider withdrawing this amendment and sitting down with Treasury representatives to work out language that meets the Senator's needs but also addresses some very legitimate concerns of the Department.

Let me repeat, this is identical to legislation that has been scheduled for markup this coming Monday in the Foreign Relations Committee, on which the Senator from Colorado sits, and contributes a great deal.

While I understand the Senator's desire to have this legislation acted on quickly, I think it would be a very unfortunate precedent to preempt the Committee markup in this way.

We also have the point that this is, after all, authorizing legislation being attached to an appropriations bill. So I hope that this could be withdrawn with the understanding that it would be taken up again next week or the week after.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I appreciate the very thoughtful comments of the Senator from Rhode Island. He, as always, makes such a valuable contribution in the Senate's deliberations. I think he makes a very valid point with regard to the deliberations of the committee and certainly that would be the normal process that I would want to follow. Indeed, my observation is correct that it is scheduled for markup in committee.

There are several factors that make me want to move ahead with the process right now. That is, first of all, the urgency of getting this information while billions of dollars of American taxpayers' money is being committed. My sense is it is very important in terms of timing to get this enacted as quickly as possible. But I want to pledge to the Senator that any adjustments that are made in markup, I will—along with, I know, others and I hope many will be active in—be urging the conferees to adopt so that, first, the deliberations of the committee are not overlooked but are incorporated in this by the conferees; and second, that we move along quickly.

The second aspect I might note here is that we have been working with the Treasury people. I want to pledge myself to work with them in terms of fine-tuning reporting requirements.

But most of all, I want to know also another factor. This obviously involves more than simply the Foreign Relations Committee. The bulk of the bill is really the work of Senator D'AMATO and his Banking Committee. He has been a guiding light in the effort to get the facts out in this area.

So it is my sense that it is appropriate to move ahead with the legislation at this time simply because it is so urgent to be getting accurate answers and accounting while literally billions of dollars are flowing out of U.S. coffers.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator GREGG be added as a cosponsor of the amendment.

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

VISIT TO THE SENATE BY PRIME MINISTER JOHN BRUTON OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, at this point I would like to yield to the distinguished Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS].

Mr. HELMS. Madam President, I thank the distinguished Senator from Colorado.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina is recognized.

Mr. HELMS. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess for 5 minutes so that Senators may pay their respects and extend their welcome to the distinguished Prime Minister from Ireland.

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

Mr. HELMS. I thank the Chair.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair welcomes the Prime Minister.

RECESS

Thereupon, the Senate, at 4:09 p.m. recessed until 4:13 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. HUTCHISON).

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND RESCIS-SIONS ACT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 340

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. PELL. I think the arguments have been pretty well outlined here. I am prepared to vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 340) was agreed to.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. D'AMATO. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. D'AMATO. Madam 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. DOLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. SPECTER addressed the Chair.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

AGREED FRAMEWORK WITH NORTH KOREA

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, during the first hearing of the Senate

Intelligence Committee, which I chair, back on January 10 of this year, I expressed a concern about what was happening with the arrangements between the United States and North Korea on the deal where North Korea would have a 5-year window without inspection of used fuel rods, which is the best way on an inspection line of determining what is happening with respect to the potential for North Korea to build a nuclear weapon.

During the course of the next several weeks, and in discussions with a number of my colleagues, it seemed to me preferable to have that so-called agreement, the United States-North Korea agreed framework for resolving the nuclear issue, submitted to the United States Senate for ratification, because it really was, in effect, a treaty even though the administration had denominated it as an agreed framework, not even, according to the administration, rising to the level of an executive agreement which would activate certain congressional review.

On February 24, I prepared a letter, which was submitted under the signatures of Senator HELMS, in his capacity as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee; Senator MURKOWSKI, in his capacity as the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee; and myself, as chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, to Senator DOLE setting forth our request that the Senate handle as a treaty under the constitutional ratification process the United States-Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea Agreed Framework for Resolving the Nuclear Issue.

The letter set forth that the Clinton administration was seeking to proceed under this so-called agreed framework without submitting it as a treaty, which it really was, for Senate ratification.

We submitted at that time to Senator DOLE a legal memorandum prepared by the Congressional Research Service, the Library of Congress, dated February 8, 1995, which set forth the criteria for considering whether an arrangement was a treaty.

In our letter, we noted that, while the memorandum specifies that "there are no 'hard and fast rules,' we believe the underlying rationale suggests that the agreement should be handled as a treaty because it is a matter of great importance (involving North Korea's potential for developing nuclear weapons)," that the document "constitutes a substantial commitment of funds extending beyond a fiscal year and is of substantial political significance," all of which were criteria for an evaluation as to whether the arrangement was in fact a treaty.

We concluded our letter to Senator DOLE noting that "The formal treaty ratification process will enable us"—that is, the Senate—"to undertake a detailed factual analysis to determine whether this agreement is in the national interest."