

Whereas Senator Byrd has devoted tireless energy and tremendous effort to the preparation and publication of the historical books, enabling citizens of the United States to better understand the history, traditions, and uniqueness of the Senate; and

Whereas a better understanding by people of the Senate and the role of the Senate in our constitutional system of government will foster respect and appreciation for the democratic traditions of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States Senate extends congratulations and appreciation to Senator Robert C. Byrd for completing "The History of the United State Senate", a monumental achievement that will educate and inspire citizens of the United States about the Senate for generations to come.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MEDICARE SELECT POLICY EXPANSION

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I inquire of the Chair if H.R. 483 has arrived from the House of Representatives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes; it has.

Mr. GORTON. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 483) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit Medicare select policies to be offered in all States, and for other purposes.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I now ask for the second reading.

Mr. DASCHLE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I move the Senate go into executive session.

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. GORTON. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to the consideration of Executive Calendar No. 105.

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

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Dennis M. Duffy, of Pennsyl-

vania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. GORTON. I ask unanimous consent that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the nomination appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that the Senate return to legislative session.

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

The nomination was considered and confirmed.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I am delighted to join the chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. SIMPSON], in bringing the nomination of Dennis Duffy to be VA Assistant Secretary for Policy and planning before the Senate and urging his confirmation.

Dennis is a career VA employee who began working for VA in the Pittsburgh regional office in 1974, 2 years after he returned from Vietnam, where he served with the American division. For most of his career, he worked on benefits matters, both in the field and in VA central office. Most recently, Dennis has been working in Congressional Affairs, where he is now the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional Liaison.

The White House first indicated its intention last year to nominate Dennis for this position, but his nomination was not received until after adjournment, so we were unable to take it up. I was delighted when the President again submitted this nomination early in this Congress.

I think the job for which Dennis has been nominated—the VA Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning—is terribly important. This vital position has been vacant for nearly a year, and it is important that the Senate act on this nomination quickly so as to restore leadership to the office.

I had a very strong interest in the role VA's Office of Policy and Planning played in health care reform during the last Congress, and I anticipate that there is an important ongoing role in that area as the Congress seeks to address eligibility reform and other health care matters. I am also very interested in many other exciting issues that the office undertakes, which I look forward to working on with Dennis in the weeks and months ahead.

I am very excited that Dennis will join another VA Assistant Secretary, Mark Catlett, as the second career VA employee nominated to an advice and consent position within VA. Dennis' nomination to this position—a key position within VA—is a very positive message for career employees throughout VA.

Mr. President, Dennis Duffy has a wonderful opportunity to serve the veterans of the Nation in this new office. President Clinton has shown great confidence in him, his work, and his com-

mitment to veterans by nominating him to serve in this important position. I urge my colleagues to give their unanimous support to this nomination.

MALIGNMENT OF THE INTEGRITY OF THE NATION'S LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 32, the joint resolution by Senators HATCH and BIDEN, and further that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the joint resolution and preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that any statements relating to the joint resolution be printed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

So the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 32) was passed.

The preamble was agreed to.

The joint resolution and its preamble are as follows:

[The joint resolution was not available for printing. It will appear in a future issue of the RECORD.]

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

DO NOT VETO H.R. 831

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I would like to address a certain letter that is being passed around in the House to be sent to the President. I understand that the President may have already received it. The letter urges the President to veto H.R. 831, Permanent Deduction of Health Care Insurance Costs of Self-Employed Individuals. The letter has over 139 House Democrats' signatures.

The conference report to H.R. 831 passed the House last week, and we passed it in the Senate on Monday. The President received the bill on Tuesday, April 4, and it lies there waiting for the President to sign it into public law.

It is critical to 3.2 million tax filers that this bill be enacted prior to April 17—tax day. If it is not, then 11 days from now, less than 2 weeks, 3.2 million filers will find that they cannot use a deduction that they have had since 1986. Mr. President, 3.2 million filers will find that they will have to pay more taxes than they did last year. And Mr. President, these 3.2 million filers are farmers, and small business owners all across America.

THE LETTER

Now, this letter alludes that Republicans somehow carved out a special