

DOE's meeting its contractual obligations and the Department's response to the recent court action.

Again, I wish to emphasize my pledge to work with the Congress in addressing this matter, consistent with the President's policy.

Sincerely,

FEDERICO PEÑA.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### THE NOMINATION OF FEDERICO PEÑA

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I am going to speak until the beginning of the vote. As soon as that is called and they are ready, I would ask to be interrupted. But I want to speak briefly on the nomination of Federico Peña for Secretary of Energy. This is a very important position, and one that I think will certainly have an impact on the energy policy of our country in the future. Knowing how important having a healthy energy policy and a strong industry that can produce our own energy domestically is to this country, I think this nomination and the support for Federico Peña is important to all of the Senate.

I am cochair, along with Senator BREAUX, of the oil and gas caucus. We are going to work this year to make sure that we eliminate redundant and unnecessary regulations on the energy industry so we will be able to go out and drill in our country for our natural resources. We want tax incentives which encourage oil and gas drilling, especially marginal wells and formations which are difficult to develop. These are important because we want to have energy sufficiency in our country. Not only does it create jobs, but it creates security.

A country that is dependent on foreign oil and gas is not going to be a strong country. It is not going to be a superpower. So, having a healthy energy policy in our country will be most important for us to be able to strengthen the ability to get oil and gas on our own shores.

I see, Mr. President, that our leaders are ready to start a vote. I will stop and then hope to be able to speak on behalf of Secretary Peña's nomination at a later time.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WARNER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

#### AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Senate continued with the consideration of the resolution.

##### AMENDMENT NO. 23

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I see my distinguished colleague [Mr. GLENN], is in the Chamber. So, at this time, on behalf of both leaders, I ask unanimous consent that there be 5 minutes for debate equally divided on amendment No. 23; following the debate, the Senate proceed to vote on amendment No. 23 without any intervening action or debate.

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

Mr. GLENN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. GLENN. Mr. President, I do not object to this proposal for 5 minutes for debate equally divided on the amendment, and following debate, we proceed to vote. There has been a lot of negotiating going on here, as has been obvious to everyone. I think we have some satisfactory procedures worked out that will be generally far more acceptable than what we had prior to that. I look forward to the vote. I think that most people on both sides will probably be happy to vote for this because this is a way we get to a final solution out of the disagreements we have had here. I look forward to the vote.

Mr. WARNER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I congratulate my distinguished colleague, because I doubt that we would be where we are right now had we not had the debate yesterday and the debate this morning. I think the Senator from Ohio would concur in that.

Mr. GLENN. I would, indeed.

Mr. WARNER. Therefore, Mr. President, I express my appreciation to the distinguished Republican leader, the Republican whip and others who worked on this resolution. The amendment, which was reported out from the Rules Committee, will be amended by the distinguished majority leader, and I will be a cosponsor, whereby we add the word "improper." That reflects on the original document that I drew from, namely the Watergate amendment which we referred to several times on the floor. That contained that particular word, and it has been throughout the various expressions by the Governmental Affairs Committee as to their desire. But that does not in any way infringe on the continuing role of the Rules Committee or the continuing role of the Ethics Committee.

Again, there is a clear division under the underlying resolution from the Rules Committee that these three committees will work together as a team

and, hopefully, resolve many problems relating to campaign reform and campaign finance and otherwise. I certainly will say to my distinguished colleague, and I see on the floor the distinguished chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee, with whom I have had a dialog just about every day, their main focus will be on the question of allegations of illegality and the presence, or lack thereof, of illegality in the generic subject of campaign finance and campaign reform.

Mr. President, unless the distinguished Senator from Ohio has further remarks, I yield back the time and we can proceed with the vote.

Mr. GLENN. Mr. President, I don't want to get into another debate before we even get around to this vote, but I think the focus on where the wrongdoing is can be either on illegalities or on improprieties with the change that has been proposed by the leaders. I would not want to let it be said right now or let it be indicated that the main focus—what the main focus will be, I think, is up to the committee chairman and the ranking minority member to work out. I think we have language in here that will do that. It might be inappropriate at sometime to take up an illegality if it was looked at as fairly minor, or a giant impropriety over that, in our judgment, needed to be looked at first. I would not agree at this point that this vote we are about to take specifies exactly which direction we would go. I hope that my colleague will agree with that.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, at this time, I think all time has expired, has it not?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 30 seconds remaining. The Senator from Ohio also has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. GLENN. I yield such time as I have to the Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I wonder if we can ask directly, the Senator, with this amendment, is not establishing any priorities between illegality and impropriety; is that correct? Either one would be within the scope, is that accurate?

Mr. WARNER. Very clearly we have drafted the language so that the word "improper" is added to the underlying resolution of the Rules Committee in two places.

Mr. LEVIN. And it is not given any lesser strength than the word "illegality," is that correct?

Mr. WARNER. I say to the Senator, we simply added one word. It speaks for itself.

Mr. LEVIN. Except that our good friend from Virginia suggested there might be a greater emphasis on one than the other. Is there anything in this—

Mr. WARNER. If I did, I did not wish to infer that. I thank my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time having expired, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 23, offered by the Senators from Mississippi, Tennessee, and Virginia.