

\$98 million for the National Endowment of the Arts. The NEA was a marked agency, identified by the other body for elimination. In fact, the other body voted to zero out all funding and tried to extinguish the NEA. But together with my colleagues in the Senate, another round of efforts to dismantle or eliminate the NEA was stopped. When the bill came out of conference with the House, the NEA had been saved. As evidenced by a series of strong bipartisan votes in the Senate in favor of the NEA, my colleagues and I were able to save this national agency and preserve a Federal role for the arts.

During the Senate debate over NEA funding, I cosponsored with the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator STEVENS from Alaska, a Sense-of-the-Senate resolution asking the Congress to examine alternative sources of funding for the NEA. I believe it is time to give the NEA a secure future and preserve a national cultural endowment for generations to come. My hope is that the Congress will address this issue in the future.

And so it is for these reasons that I support the Interior appropriations conference report. I commend the conferees on a job well done.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SPECTER] is necessarily absent due to a death in the family.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SPECTER] would vote "yea."

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY] is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber who desire to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 84, nays 14, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 283 Leg.]

YEAS—84

Abraham	Enzi	Lieberman
Akaka	Feinstein	Lott
Allard	Ford	Lugar
Baucus	Frist	Mack
Bennett	Glenn	McCain
Biden	Gorton	McConnell
Bingaman	Graham	Mikulski
Bond	Grams	Moynihan
Breaux	Grassley	Murkowski
Brownback	Gregg	Murray
Bumpers	Hagel	Nickles
Burns	Harkin	Reed
Byrd	Hatch	Reid
Campbell	Hollings	Robb
Chafee	Hutchinson	Roberts
Cleland	Hutchison	Rockefeller
Coats	Inhofe	Santorum
Cochran	Inouye	Sarbanes
Collins	Jeffords	Sessions
Conrad	Johnson	Shelby
Coverdell	Kempthorne	Smith (OR)
Craig	Kerrey	Snowe
D'Amato	Kerry	Stevens
Daschle	Kyl	Thomas
DeWine	Landrieu	Thompson
Dodd	Lautenberg	Thurmond
Domenici	Leahy	Torricelli
Dorgan	Levin	Warner

NAYS—14

Ashcroft	Durbin	Gramm
Boxer	Faircloth	Helms
Bryan	Feingold	

Kohl	Roth	Wellstone
Moseley-Braun	Smith (NH)	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Kennedy	Specter
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The conference report was agreed to. Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the conference report was agreed to.

Mr. MCCAIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

RECESS UNTIL 2:15 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, at 12:57 p.m., the Senate recessed until 2:14 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. HAGEL).

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business for the next 30 minutes with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LOTT. For the information of all Senators, we are now in the process of taking a look at D.C. appropriations bill papers on both sides of the aisle. We hope that within the next hour or so we will be able to go to the D.C. appropriations bill.

Also, it is our intent, as I have advised the Democratic leader, this afternoon to call up the DOD, Department of Defense, authorization conference report and begin the process on that bill.

So those two bills will consume the bulk of the time this afternoon. There is the possibility of recorded votes, and Senators should be aware of 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.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. I further ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as if in morning business.

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

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, this morning the Senate was once

again blocked from considering campaign finance reform legislation. As a result, the ISTE reauthorization bill has been delayed.

What happened today was clear. Intense opposition to any consideration of campaign finance reform legislation has precluded consideration of one of the most important measures to come before the Senate this year, the ISTE reauthorization bill. ISTE has been derailed for the time being because the majority party has refused to agree to even schedule a debate on campaign finance reform. They have refused the will of a majority of the Senate to engage in a debate over an issue that goes to the very heart of our Government and our democratic process.

The 48 Senators who voted against cloture today did not vote to kill the ISTE reauthorization bill, as some have claimed. We did not cast our votes against cloture because we objected to this critically important highway and transit bill. Rather, we cast our votes against the obstructionist techniques that have been used to block debate on campaign finance reform legislation. We refused to cast our votes to end debate because there has, as of yet, not been debate over campaign finance reform.

Several weeks ago, the Senate engaged in a mock debate over the issue. It was not a real debate. Not a single amendment was offered. Not a single vote was taken. It is the business of the Senate to consider amendments and vote on issues and debate concerns of the American people. None of that has happened. It was as undemocratic a debate as I have yet seen in the Senate, and I know that the American people expect more from us.

They are frustrated and disillusioned with the current election process. We need to get Americans back into the system and get them involved in decisions that affect their lives. We need campaign finance reform to restore the American people's faith in the electoral process. Too many people believe that the current system cuts them off from their Government.

A League of Women Voters study found that one of the top three reasons people do not vote at all is the belief that their vote will not make a difference. We saw the result of that cynicism in 1994 when just 38 percent of all registered voters headed to the polls. We saw it again in 1996 when only 49 percent of the voting age population turned out to vote, the lowest percentage of Americans to go to the polls in 72 years.

According to a Gallup poll conducted early this month, 59 percent of Americans believe that elections are generally for sale to the candidate who can raise the most money. When you consider how much money it costs to finance a modern campaign, you can understand the frustration. According to recent Federal Election Commission figures, congressional candidates spent a total of \$765.3 million in the 1996 elections, which was up 5.5 percent from