

business until 5 p.m. with Senators speaking for up to 5 minutes each, with the following exceptions: Senator THOMAS, or his designee, 15 minutes; Senator DURBIN, or his designee, 15 minutes.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. Therefore, the Senate will be in a period of morning business on Tuesday.

Following the morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of any available conference reports, if available from the House. It is more likely the Senate will not receive these Senate appropriations reports until either late on Tuesday or Wednesday morning. Votes are not anticipated during Tuesday's session. Senators will be notified when votes are scheduled.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LOTT. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that the Senate stand in recess under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators HARKIN, LANDRIEU, REID, DORGAN, DURBIN, and LOTT.

Mr. DORGAN. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. LOTT. I am happy to withhold the final request.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I merely want to ask the majority leader a bit more about the schedule. I understand there are no votes tomorrow, on Tuesday, and the potential of votes on Wednesday. I missed part of the presentation of the majority leader for which I apologize.

Is it the intention of the majority leader to try to complete business this week?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I am happy to repeat it because I know we want to make sure all Senators have heard this. We have four appropriations bills that are in some degree of completion. I think two of them have been wrapped up and two are still being discussed between the House, the Senate, and the White House. It is possible the House will act on one of those appropriations bills on Tuesday, but it appears it wouldn't be until late in the afternoon or even early evening, so we wouldn't get it until late Tuesday or perhaps Wednesday morning.

We also have a discussion underway involving a tax bill which would provide for FSC and the pension and IRAs that have been approved by the Senate Finance Committee, so that could be completed and be available late tomorrow afternoon. But both of those would also probably be done on Wednesday.

Hopefully, with three or four votes, we would be able to complete the session for the year. That could be done Wednesday; hopefully it will be done not later than Thursday. Of course, that all is dependent upon final agreement between the two bodies and final

comments we might get from the White House.

Mr. DORGAN. I thank the majority leader for his response.

Might I inquire on one further issue, the issue of the tax matters that the Senator described? Can the Senator tell me how those tax issues will come to the floor of the Senate and the House? In what form? Attached to what legislation?

Mr. LOTT. I don't mean for that to be all inclusive. I assume we will be clearing bills right along as we did last week and this week. We also have a number of Executive Calendar nominations that we anticipate clearing. I started the process last week to get to a vote on bankruptcy. We hope that will also come up, probably Thursday, before we go out.

With regard to the tax provisions, there is a bill to which they would be attached. I don't recall the number right offhand. It does relate to small businesses, small business tax relief, but I can't give an exact name.

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

The Senator from New York.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I wonder if I might ask our distinguished leader, he mentioned the Executive Calendar. The Finance Committee has held hearings on six nominees, two tax court judges of some considerable salience, two public trustees of the Social Security trust funds. We have not been able to find a committee presence, a majority in which to report out the measure.

We had hoped that possibly the committee might be discharged. These are persons of distinction who we all want to be in place. Will that be possible?

Mr. LOTT. If I could respond, I understand there are two tax court judges, two trustees with the Social Security and Medicare trust funds, two Social Security advisory board nominees, and Assistant Secretary of Commerce. It is our intent to get clearance to discharge committee and confirm those before we go out—hopefully, maybe even tomorrow; certainly, Wednesday or Thursday. But we have the list and we are going to be working on that.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. That is most reassuring. I thank the leader.

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

THE SENATE AGENDA

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, we are now 23 days from the end of the last fiscal year, and 15 days before the election. So far, this Congress can be de-

finer more by what it has failed to do than what it has done. The majority has so far succeeded in killing a number of critical initiatives needed by working families and senior citizens. The list of legislative corpses could fill several obituary pages.

Here is the report card on this Congress: Patients' Bill of Rights, not done; prescription drug benefit for Medicare, not done; school modernization and renovation, not done; class-size reduction, not done; minimum wage increase, not done; pay equity, not done; farm bill reforms, not done; gun safety measures, not done; campaign finance reform, not done; hate crimes legislation, not done; Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act, not done; college tuition tax deductibility, not done; long-term care tax credit, not done; child care tax credit, not done.

That list could go on and on but I think that summarizes it pretty well.

One might ask, what have we been doing around here this year? Quite frankly, not a heck of a lot when it comes to the people's business. And not only regarding the agenda, there are important authorizations and reauthorizations that have not been authorized.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the first time since 1965 that Congress fails to reauthorize. The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, Older Americans Act, the Superfund, Clean Water Act, Energy Policy Act and Veterans Health Care Eligibility Reform Act—none of these reauthorizations have taken place this year.

On top of that, we failed to pass our critical appropriations bills.

Right now, we are meeting—I'm the Senate leading Democrat on the Labor-HHS and education bill—on our education appropriations bill. We are in negotiations now. We have been in negotiations since last July and we can't seem to get it done. We are talking about class-size reduction. We have had it for 2 years. It is working well. Go around to your States and talk to the schools. Teachers love it. They are getting more teachers in the classroom. They are getting aides, assistant to come in, especially for kids with disabilities. And right now the Republicans want to turn the clocks back. They don't want to do that anymore. They want to turn the clock back.

On school modernization and construction, they don't want to do that one, either. Mr. President, 14 million American children attend classes in buildings that are unsafe or inadequate. How do we expect our kid to learn for the 21st century when they are in schools not equipped for the 20th century? Yet this Congress says no; no to the educational things that will make our kids better students, make our schools better schools, make the future a better one for all of our people. They say no.

We have had for 3 years, a demonstration projects in Iowa on school