

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT  
AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 126

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 2:15 p.m., the Senate proceed to H.J. Res. 126, the continuing resolution; further, that no amendments or motions be in order, and that there be 15 minutes equally divided between the chairman and the ranking member; that following that time the resolution be immediately read the third time, and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage of the resolution, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

SENATOR STROM THURMOND'S  
98TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to add a few accolades to those that have already been expressed on the 98th birthday of our very distinguished and able colleague, Senator THURMOND.

Senator THURMOND and I have worked together in this Chamber for 42 years. I say this with a considerable amount of pleasure. I have always found Senator THURMOND to be straightforward, courageous—he is absolutely fearless—and always considerate of the viewpoints of others. We were here during the great civil rights debates of the 1960s. We have seen colleagues come and go. We have shared viewpoints on many of the great issues that have been debated upon this stage in the years that have gone by: The Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Panama Canal Treaties in the late 1970s—the many issues that have deeply affected our country and the people of our country.

While Senator THURMOND and I belong to different political parties, I think we have attempted to see through the fog of political debate, and we have attempted to speak and act in the best interests of the country as a whole. We have often risen above the political fray.

Senator THURMOND has always been very courteous to me. I can remember those years, now long ago, when Senator THURMOND lost his wife. He was a Democrat in those years, and I remember coming into the Senate Chamber on that morning after. Senator THURMOND sat there in the back row behind me that morning. I walked up to him, shook his hand, and told him of my sorrow at his loss.

I can remember when Senator THURMOND lost his daughter. I went to South Carolina to be with him in that time of trial and tribulation and sorrow. I saw the great outpouring of affection and love by his constituents in South Carolina.

I remember, too, the day in which there was a memorial service conducted for my grandson, Michael, who was tragically killed at the age of 17. I recall that at that memorial service there were two other Senators present—Senator Randolph, my colleague at that time in the Senate, and Senator THURMOND. My colleague today, Senator ROCKEFELLER, was there, but he was at that time the Governor of the State of West Virginia.

I shall never forget when STROM THURMOND came to my side at that moment of great sorrow when I gave up my grandson. Senator THURMOND has always been a Senator who sympathizes with the sorrows, the sadness, and the joys of his colleagues.

I went out here some distance from the Capitol a few years ago to attend the funeral service of a relative of one of my staff members. This relative was a black man. Who came to that funeral service? Me. I was there because it was a relative of one of my staff members. Senator THURMOND was there. He came there to show his sympathy and his concern to those bereaved people.

I marveled at his presence on that occasion. It made me wonder, how many funerals of persons of other races, of other parties, and of other creeds does this man attend around this city?

Let me just say today that it has also been not just a pleasure to serve with Senator THURMOND but it has been an honor. I salute him on this his 98th birthday.

Abraham lived to be 175. Isaac lived to be 180. Jacob lived to be 147. Joshua lived to be 110. Joseph lived to be 110. Moses lived to be 120. STROM THURMOND is only 98. I thank the good Lord that I can be here today to share with him this birthday of his.

Let me close by remembering a few lines, if I might, that were written by a poet.

Count your garden by the flowers,  
Never by the leaves that fall.  
Count your days by the sunny hours,  
Not remembering clouds at all.  
Count your nights by stars, not shadows.  
Count your life by smiles, not tears.

On this beautiful December afternoon, Senator THURMOND:

Count your age by friends, not years.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I wish to thank the able Senator from West Virginia for his kind remarks. He is a man of character, a man of ability, a man of dedication, a man for whom all of us have high respect.

He has done a fine job here in the Senate. Although we are in different parties, we have so much in common. I have enjoyed being here with him, and I thank him for his great service to his State and to our Nation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I understand Senator HARKIN wishes to make a few remarks before the Senate recesses and before the meetings of the

two parties. I hope someone will indicate to Senator HARKIN that the floor is now available, if he would come at this time.

I understand he is on his way. If the Chair would just momentarily desist from using the gavel.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, will the Senator from West Virginia yield?

Mr. BYRD. Yes. I yield, if I have the floor, Mr. President.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to thank the Senator from West Virginia for his kind remarks in behalf of the birthday of our colleague from South Carolina, Senator THURMOND. Those were excellent remarks and tribute to a man with whom we have been proud to serve.

I would like to note, because the Senator is such a historian, that someone handed me a little piece of history which might be instructive to us in the days ahead.

The year was 1881, when a special session of the Senate convened on March 4, 1881. The session was called for the exclusive purpose of handling Cabinet and agency nominations for the new administration of President James Garfield. Republicans and Democrats were split evenly 37-37, with 2 independent Senators. Under normal circumstances, this short session should have lasted about 11 days. Due to intense partisanship, it resulted in deadlock. It ran for 11 weeks.

I hope that is a lesson to those of us who are trying to find a reasonable way to resolve our new challenge in the new Congress; that there are ways to do it so we can avoid that kind of deadlock and that kind of delay.

I see the Senator from Iowa present.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield, the two independent Senators on that occasion came from the State of Illinois. One was David Davis, a former Member of the Supreme Court. The other was William Mahone who hailed from the great State of Virginia, the mother of Presidents.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Senator. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

HEALTH AND EDUCATION  
APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, over a month has passed since the Republican and Democratic negotiators came to agreement on the health and education appropriations bill for this year. As I said back then, the agreement was reached as a product of long and difficult bipartisan negotiations. Senator STEVENS, Senator BYRD, Senator SPEC-TER, and I, along with Congressman BILL YOUNG, Congressman DAVID OBEY, and Congressman JOHN PORTER, worked for months to craft this agreement.

Chairman STEVENS and Chairman YOUNG had been charged by their leadership to lead these negotiations to closure so that we could pass this very