

that both parties have, we might not be so fortunate as to get something up before 1:15 when the Wellstone amendment is up.

The second is, the Senator asked if we could do another amendment. What amendment would the Senator suggest we move to, then?

Mr. REID. There is one amendment about which I have received a number of calls today. Mr. DURBIN, the Senator from Illinois, wants to offer his substitute. In effect, that is what it is. The Senator from Iowa is familiar with that. It is at the desk.

It is at the desk. He would be willing to have a relatively short time agreement for the opportunity to express his views on that.

Mr. GRASSLEY. As the main sponsor of this legislation, I should be able to tell you we could go to the Durbin amendment. But we have some reservation at this time on moving forward on the Durbin amendment, particularly because it would take a good deal of time and would interfere with the Wellstone amendment. If there is some other amendment the Senator from Nevada would like to take up, he might suggest something, and we would quickly consider that.

Mr. REID. We have one that Senator LEAHY has been trying to get up, amendment No. 19, a set-aside amendment.

Mr. GRASSLEY. That is the same amendment, if we went back to regular order. If we called regular order, we would end up on that amendment.

Mr. REID. It is my understanding that No. 20 is regular order. This one isn't before the Senate.

Mr. GRASSLEY. This is an amendment that has not been before the Senate.

Mr. REID. That is my understanding. It has been filed but it has not been debated.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I suggest we put in a quorum call, and then we will take a look at it.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 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.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask that the pending amendment be set aside temporarily and amendment No. 19 on behalf of Senator LEAHY be offered.

It is my understanding that the Senator from Iowa will also want a unanimous consent agreement to indicate there would be no second-degree amendments.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 19

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for Mr. LEAHY, proposes an amendment numbered 19.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To correct the treatment of certain spousal income for purposes of means testing)

On page 17, line 8, strike "and the debtor's spouse combined" and insert ", or in a joint case, the debtor and the debtor's spouse".

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 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.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now be in a period of morning business with Senators speaking up to 10 minutes each until 1:15 today.

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, 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.

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

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

BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT OF 2001—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 36, AS MODIFIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending amendment of the Senator from Minnesota.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Amendment No. 36, as modified, previously proposed by Mr. WELLSTONE.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I want to be clear with my colleagues and the majority leader that I came to the floor very early on with several amendments to move this process forward. Last week, when I initially objected to a motion to proceed, the majority leader said we would have substantive debate on amendments. This amendment has been "hanging out there" for several days. I have wanted a vote on this amendment. I modified this amendment because there was concern on the part of one of my colleagues on the other side that there was a jurisdictional problem with a committee. I had assumed we would

have an up-or-down vote on this amendment. My understanding is that it might not happen and there might be a second-degree amendment. I don't know what that amendment is, but it will probably be an amendment that will gut this amendment.

It makes me start to wonder, even more, about what we have been doing out on the floor of the Senate with this bankruptcy bill. My colleague called this a reform bill, but I wish to mention a couple of articles that have been published recently. I will soon ask to have them printed in the RECORD.

There was a piece that appeared on Tuesday, March 13, in the Wall Street Journal entitled, "Auto Firms See Profit In Bankruptcy-Reform Bill Provision." The first paragraph:

The nation's three major auto makers are always interested in making deals, and they hope to close one in the U.S. Senate this week that is worth millions of dollars to each of them.

The deal lies in the bankruptcy-reform bill expected to clear the Senate this week. Buried in the bill's 42 pages is a section that changes the way auto loans are treated when an individual declares bankruptcy, making it more likely the car loans will have to be paid back in full—even while other creditors collect only part of what they are owed.

That might include child support payments as well.

There also is in here a chart that deals with the soft money, PAC, and individual contributions by members of the Coalition for Responsible Bankruptcy Laws.

I actually think the bitter irony is that the debate we have been having on this bill—for the 2½ or 3 years I have been working on this—is probably, unfortunately, a perfect bridge to the debate we are going to have on campaign finance reform.

Again, I want to be real clear with my colleagues. I don't like to come to the floor and do a one-to-one correlation that money has been given, so that is why you are voting this way. I don't believe in that for several reasons. One, it would be arrogant on my part to believe that if somebody has a different point of view, that means, ipso facto, they are receiving all this money from, for instance, the financial services industry and that is why they are voting the way they are. That is not my argument.

Rather, my argument is institutional, which is more serious. The problem with this political process is not that there is "corruption," as in the wrongdoing of individual officeholders, as in one-to-one quid pro quo—here is the money, here is how you should vote.

The problem is institutional, and that is a more serious problem. It is the imbalance of power, the imbalance of access, the imbalance of influence, not affluence, between the people I have tried to represent as a Senator—low- and moderate-income people, people of color, poor people, consumers—and the heavy hitters, the investors, the players, the lobbying coalition.