

whether it is the complete substitute that some might prefer or targeted amendments dealing with these four components or something else.

My hope is, however, at some point in the not too distant future we can complete our work on this and go to conference so we can ultimately complete our work on a bill that enjoys both House and Senate support and hopefully the support of the President as well.

That is, in essence, what we have done today. I appreciate the help and the cooperative effort that has been made by a number of our colleagues, not the least of whom is the Republican leader. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I believe Senator DASCHLE has appropriately described the procedure that is being employed in this situation. It is highly appropriate we begin this new year by trying to work through the amendments and the process that can get us to an economic security package.

I do think the economy needs some stimulus. I do think we need additional unemployment compensation. I think we need to look at ways to give incentives to small businessmen and women to create jobs so we have growth in the economy, so we are not just trying to help our people make sure they have something to live on this week but so they can get and have a good paying job in the future.

We could debate about when we should have done it and how we should do it, but the fact is we should do this. We have talked back and forth during the past 24 hours about the best way to proceed. I obviously thought the best way to proceed was to call up the House-passed bipartisan bill, have it open for amendment and debate and see how it moved and to get a vote on that, but we could not come to agreement to get that done.

We also looked at coming up with this so-called common approach with the four components and limiting amendments. Part of the problem was the fourth item, the Federal assistance to the States. The way it was going to be introduced was not in the bipartisan House-passed package so it was thought this was not a common approach provision by our people.

There also was some resistance, I think in both conferences, to say we can only have two or three amendments. I believe by having an opportunity to offer amendments on both sides after a reasonable period of time Members are going to make a decision. We need to go ahead and get this done and get it to conference or, if we cannot come to agreement on something, it deserves to go forward. It is going to be difficult because at this point procedurally 60 votes are required for amendments or substitutes. We will have a full debate. We will have a chance to offer amendments, and I

think it is necessary and appropriate that we try to get a stimulus package done.

So after a lot of discussion back and forth, this is the best procedure we could purpose. We did not require a vote on the motion to proceed to the bill that was being used to call up this procedure, and we are not filibustering it. We want it resolved. I think this could get it resolved, but it is going to be tough. It is going to take some give and take on both sides. We have to try to come up with something that will enjoy bipartisan support to get 60 votes. We will see if we can get that done. It is certainly worth the effort.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam 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. Madam 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. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes.

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

CREATING A NEW BUREAU OF INDIAN TRUST ASSET MANAGEMENT

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, it has long been recognized that the Department of the Interior's Indian trust fund accounting and management systems have struggled with the challenge of meeting the Government's trust responsibility to Native Americans. Shortly before the Christmas break, to her credit, the Secretary of the Interior acknowledged this fact and proposed reorganizing the way the Department handles its trust asset management responsibilities.

The Secretary has proposed creating a new Bureau of Indian Trust Asset Management to manage Indian trusts. It is now the job of the Department, Congress, and the tribes to assess how this plan would work in practice.

Tribal leaders in South Dakota have emphasized to me their concern that any BIA reorganization plan that has not been thoroughly discussed with the Native American community nationwide could hold potentially adverse consequences for tribal members. The leaders of the nine tribes in my State, for example, ask how such a proposal would address the underlying issues of trust fund management in light of the pending Cobell vs. Norton class action suit; how it would impact funding for other programs upon which tribes depend; and how it would affect the self-governance of Tribes.

These are legitimate questions, and tribal leaders and their members deserve satisfactory answers prior to the implementation of any reorganization plan. I hope that a more concerted effort will be made, by the Department and Congress, to involve tribal leaders fully in the decision-making process on the BIA reorganization effort. Certainly no significant organizational changes within the BIA should be made without adequate consultation with tribal leaders across the country. The essence of the Federal Government's trust relationship with the tribes requires no less.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR JEFFREY W. PRICHARD, U.S. AIR FORCE

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and say farewell to an outstanding Air Force officer, Major Jeff "JoBu" Prichard, upon his departure from my staff. Major Prichard was selected as an Air Force Fellow to work in my office during the First Session of the 107th Congress due to his outstanding professional reputation and superior knowledge of Defense issues, the United States Air Force requirements process, and the military presence in my home State. He has been a valued team member and it is a privilege for me to recognize his many outstanding achievements and the superior service he has provided the United States Senate, the Air Force, and our Nation.

Major Prichard, a native of the State of Mississippi, graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant through the Reserve Officer Training Corps, ROTC. Since then, Major Prichard has spent the majority of his career patrolling the world's skies as an Air Force fighter pilot. Following flight training, he began his service flying the F-15C "Eagle" in the 67th Fighter Squadron, 18th Tactical Fighter Wing in Okinawa, Japan. During this tour, Major Prichard was selected as a member of the 18th Wing team that won the 1992 Worldwide William Tell Air-to-Air Weapons Competition and he out flew all competitors to win the coveted "Topgun" Trophy. After his tour in Japan, he reported to the 60th Fighter Squadron in Ft. Walton Beach, FL, where he deployed in support of Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY in Haiti and Operation SOUTHERN WATCH where he lead 34 combat missions patrolling the skies over Iraq enforcing the no-fly zone. Also during this tour, Major Prichard attended the Air Force's Weapons School at Nellis AFB, NV, and in September 1996 was handpicked to return as an instructor. In 1999, Major Prichard left the cockpit to serve on the staff of the Secretary of the Air Force in Washington, DC, as the Air-to-Air Missile Program Manager and then was selected to serve as a Military Legislative Fellow during the 1st session of the 107th Congress.

Major Prichard quickly became a valued member of my staff sharing his