

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act.

Harry Reid, Max Baucus, Debbie Stabenow, Jeff Bingaman, Patty Murray, John D. Rockefeller, IV, Thomas R. Carper, Mark L. Pryor, John F. Kerry, Dianne Feinstein, Richard Durbin, Daniel K. Inouye, Bill Nelson, Bernard Sanders, Jon Tester, Jim Webb, Frank R. Lautenberg.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 6304

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, July 8, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, following consultation with Senator MCCONNELL, all postcloture time be yielded back and the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 827, H.R. 6304, be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and the Senate then proceed to the consideration of the bill; that once the bill is reported, the only amendments in order be the following: Dodd-Feingold-Leahy amendment to strike immunity; a Specter amendment which is relevant; a Bingaman amendment re: staying court cases against telecom companies; that no other amendments be in order; that debate time on the Bingaman amendment be limited to 60 minutes, equally divided and controlled in the usual form, and 2 hours each with respect to the Dodd and Specter amendments, equally divided and controlled, with 10 minutes of the Dodd time under the control of Senator LEAHY; that upon the use or yielding back of all time, the Senate proceed to vote on the pending amendments; there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled in the usual form prior to each vote; that after the first vote in the sequence, succeeding votes be limited to 10 minutes each; that upon the disposition of all amendments, the bill, as amended, if amended, be read a third time and the Senate then proceed to vote on a motion to invoke cloture on the bill, with the mandatory quorum waived; that prior to the cloture vote, there be 60 minutes plus the time specified below for debate time, equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with 10 minutes under the control of Senator LEAHY, with an additional 30 minutes under the control of Senator FEINGOLD, with an additional 15 minutes under the control of Senator DODD; further, that if cloture is invoked on H.R. 6304, then all postcloture time be yielded back, and without further intervening action or debate, the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended; further, that it be in order to file the cloture motion on the bill at any time prior to the cloture vote, with the mandatory quorum waived, notwithstanding rule XXII, if applicable, and that if applicable,

postcloture time be charged during this agreement.

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

FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.R. 6304, the FISA Amendments Act of 2008.

E. Benjamin Nelson, John D. Rockefeller, IV, Thomas R. Carper, Mark L. Pryor, Bill Nelson, Dianne Feinstein, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Barbara A. Mikulski, Claire McCaskill, Kent Conrad, Daniel K. Inouye, Mary L. Landrieu, Joseph I. Lieberman, Sheldon Whitehouse, Evan Bayh, Ken Salazar.

Mr. REID. 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.

FORECLOSURE PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

Mr. REID. Mr. President, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives with respect to H.R. 3221.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the message with respect to H.R. 3221.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A message from the House of Representatives to accompany H.R. 3221, to provide needed housing reform and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move that the Senate concur in the amendments of the House striking titles VI through XI to H.R. 3221, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the cloture motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the amendments of the House, striking title VI through XI, to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3221, the Foreclosure Prevention Act.

Harry Reid, Christopher J. Dodd, John D. Rockefeller, IV, Debbie Stabenow, Jeff Bingaman, Ken Salazar, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Max Baucus, Patty Murray, Barbara A. Mikulski, Charles E. Schumer, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Bill Nelson, John F. Kerry, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin, Frank R. Lautenberg.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote occur at 5 p.m., Monday, July 7, with the hour prior to the cloture vote equally divided and controlled between the chair and ranking member of the Banking Committee, and that no other motions be in order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Chairs hears none, and it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, let me say this. I had one Senator come to me today and say: You know, why don't we spend more time here? We set out to accomplish certain things. We haven't been able to accomplish everything we wanted, but I say to everyone here, the procedures we just now went through would take, if we followed every step of the procedure of this body, well into late next week. So people should just be satisfied that we are going to be able to have whatever the action is on Medicare, whether it passes or doesn't. At least we are going to have final action on that now, we are going to be able to complete the supplemental, and we have a time set to complete FISA early next week, with people having all the opportunity they want to talk about how great it is and how horrible that bill is.

We also have a pathway so that Senators SHELBY and DODD can complete the housing bill. I think it is a good piece of work. Was it as smooth as I would like? No. As I said when I came here this morning, when I gave the example of going out with my dad as a boy and gathering wood, and we would get stuck in those washes and those back tires would spin and spin, that vehicle was going a thousand miles an hour but going nowhere; it was stuck in sand and nothing would happen, and we would work and put stuff under the tires and push it, and it took a long time but we always got it unstuck. Well, we would have gotten unstuck here; it is just a question of when, and the "when" is now.

So I say to the individual who asked me about this, is this something that is real pleasant to watch? Probably not. But for this country, the Senate has been doing this for 230-some-odd years, and that is how it works. We have heard a lot of times, as we watch the legislative process in action, that it is like watching the stuff they put into the hot dog: it is probably not too pleasant to watch, but it tastes pretty good when you chomp on it. That is what this legislation is all about.

I think we are going to have the ability to work on issues important to the