

Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Under the previous order, all postcloture time is yielded back and the Senate will proceed to consideration of the bill.

Under the previous order, the clerk will read the bill for the third time.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the bill is passed and the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The bill (H.R. 6331) was passed.

AMERICAN HOUSING RESCUE AND FORECLOSURE PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

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

Pending:

Reid amendment No. 5067 (to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House adding a new title to the amendment of the Senate), to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 5068 (to amendment No. 5067), of a perfecting nature.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

EXPLANATIONS OF VOTES

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I missed the final vote on the FISA final passage that occurred earlier this afternoon. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted in favor of the bill. This position is consistent with all my previous votes on the matter, and with my considered judgment that this legislation is critical to protecting our country from future terrorist attacks.

Madam President, I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I wish to say that we have had a very dramatic moment here on the floor of the Senate, and I think there wasn't a person in the room or the gallery who wasn't thrilled to see Senator KENNEDY back and looking so good, to do what he always does, and that is have the commitment and go the extra mile to keep that commitment.

I wanted to say, though, that I don't think this was the Senate's finest hour. I want us to all remember that in the Senate we have had a long tradition of bringing up legislation, having amendments, and then voting on legislation. That was not the case in the bill that was before us today. There was an attempt to pass a bill that had no ability for amendments—not one.

I voted for the bill. It is not the way I would have written it, but I thought the risk was so great that the doctor fix in Medicare might actually lapse and the upheaval for our senior citizens and voters would be a risk too great to take. But it didn't have to be that way. It did not have to be a shutout of Republicans in order to ram something through, when 100 percent of us wanted to fix the doctors; when 100 percent of us had an agreement on 90 percent of the bill that was before us. But there were legitimate differences.

Although I chose to make sure there would not be a cut in service to our seniors and our veterans, I don't think we had to do it that way. Any of my colleagues who didn't vote that way were voting conscience, and it was a tough vote for them as well. They had no input. Several of us who voted "yes" believed we could have changed the bill for the better, or at least if we had the opportunity for an amendment we would have known that we had our say and the majority would have ruled, and the result would have been the same.

I do not think this is the way we want to continue proceeding in the Senate, and though it was a great victory for the Democrats, and it was certainly something that is going to save a cataclysmic event, I hope that going forward we will not allow this kind of tension to be in this body because it is not necessary. This is not the House. The House does operate that way. I do not want that to happen in the Senate.

It is my plea to the majority leader that he is the leader of the Senate, not just the leader of the Democrats. I hope going forward he will give us the opportunity for bipartisan solutions. That is something I think all of us would feel better about.

I yield the floor. 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.

Mrs. DOLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mrs. DOLE. I ask consent to speak as in morning business.

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

REMEMBERING JESSE HELMS

Mrs. DOLE. Madam President, yesterday, hundreds of people from all walks of life and across the political

spectrum traveled from near and far to Hayes Barton Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC, to pay their final respects to United States Senator Jesse Helms and to express condolences to his beloved wife, Dot, and their family.

In the days since Jesse's July 4 passing, we have heard it said by many: You knew where Jesse Helms stood. As my husband, Bob Dole said, "You didn't have to look under the table. You always knew where Jesse was."

Even those who disagreed with Jesse on an issue could respect the fact that he always stood tall and firm—for his convictions, his faith, his family, his home State of North Carolina, and the United States of America.

When I announced that I was running to succeed Senator Helms—and I have always said "succeed" him because no one could replace him—I pledged to continue his commitment to constituent service that was second-to-none. He helped thousands upon thousands of North Carolinians, Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike. No problem was too small or too great for Jesse and his staff to take on during his 30 years of service for the people of our State and the Nation.

I can still hear my father saying, "Jesse Helms is our watchdog. He's a relentless watchdog for North Carolina and for America!" And Jesse often recalled that my mother was on the front row at his very first rally in Rowan County. Through the years, Jesse unflinchingly phoned my mother on her May 22 birthday, and she lived to be just 4 months short of 103 years old. In fact, Jesse would often stay late at his Senate office, making thoughtful phone calls and writing personal letters to constituents, colleagues, and friends.

For all his small gestures of kindness and his great acts of service, Jesse Helms was not driven by self-serving motives. He did not seek recognition for good deeds, or public acclaim for success. Jesse shunned the spotlight of the Sunday morning talk shows. The people he served from North Carolina, he said, weren't watching, they, like he and Dot, were in church.

In 1997, Fred Barnes wrote a piece in the Weekly Standard that proclaimed: "Next to Ronald Reagan, Jesse Helms is the most important conservative of the last 25 years . . . and the most inner-directed person in Washington." And Fred adds, "No conservative save Reagan comes close to matching Helms' influence on American politics and policy in the quarter century since he won a Senate seat in North Carolina." Of course many have said that President Reagan might never have been elected at all without the help of Jesse Helms in the 1976 North Carolina primary—a win most pundits credit with rejuvenating the Reagan campaign—and setting Ronald Reagan up to win the nomination 4 years later.

On the national political stage, Jesse Helms was known by both fans and critics as a tough-as-nails Senator who