

to the DC House Voting Rights Act. If cloture is invoked on the motion to proceed, postcloture time will be yielded back, and the Senate will proceed to the bill. There will be immediately another cloture vote on the nomination of HILDA SOLIS to be President Obama's Secretary of Labor.

I anticipate that after the luncheons we have every week with our caucuses, we will reach an agreement for a time certain for a vote on the confirmation of the nomination of HILDA SOLIS.

Everyone is reminded that President Obama will address a joint session of Congress Tuesday evening at 9 p.m. in the House Chamber. Members of the Senate will gather on the Senate floor at 8:30 p.m. and proceed to the House.

On Wednesday, February 25, the DC voting rights bill will be up, be open to debate and amendments. We hope to complete this bill by the end of the week.

I would recognize that the House is going to take up, the week we get back, the omnibus appropriations bill.

Friday, February 26, is an announced no-vote day.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2009

Mr. REID. So, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned under the provisions of H. Con. Res. 47 until 2 p.m. on Monday, February 23; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that the Senator from Nebraska, Mr. JOHANNIS, be recognized to read Washington's Farewell Address; further, that following the address, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 160, the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009.

A TEAM EFFORT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, just in closing, it has been a long, hard several weeks for our valiant staff, and there is not any way anyone could suggest well enough the enormous contributions they make to making this body flourish the way it does.

We have gotten a tremendous amount of work done this first working period of this Congress. We should be proud of what we have done. We have passed the most sweeping environmental bill in more than 25 years. We have passed the discrimination bill, the Lilly Ledbetter bill, which is an important piece of legislation for women all over America. We passed the Children's Health Insurance Program, which allow millions of American children to have health insurance coverage that they would not have ordinarily. And we just passed this bill to help our struggling economy. So I think the American people should see that we have

worked together on a bipartisan basis to accomplish a lot.

We are so fortunate to have our new President. It is a pleasure to work with him. I have had, this past couple of weeks, the ability to visit with him firsthand in legislative combat.

They are competent. I am so impressed. The President's chief of staff Rahm Emanuel—we could not have done this without his assistance, guidance, and directness.

We had the head of the Office of Management and Budget, Peter Orszag, who I called personally last night to tell him that I know he is not a long-time person involved in politics, but he is a natural. He is a brilliant man. He has a degree from Princeton. He has a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics. I am very impressed with this man, who I did not know other than to say hello to, but I have gotten to know him well because we have spent days together in the last short period of time.

The President's representative up here, who we will deal with all the time, Phil Schiliro, has done a really wonderful job.

Rob Nabors, who was the longtime staff assistant, director of the Appropriations Committee for Chairman OBEY, has been magnificent in his work for the White House, working as Peter Orszag's assistant.

There are a lot of people who allowed us to get to where we are, and I appreciate very much their help. It was a real long, hard pull.

The Presiding Officer, my dear friend, the senior Senator from the State of Illinois, who came to Washington with me in 1982, has been invaluable during this very difficult time working on this bill.

Senator SCHUMER of New York, of course, works with me and Senator DURBIN on all the things we do.

And the final point of that legislative team is PATTY MURRAY. She is such a contributor to this Senate. I have such respect for her. She has such a soft touch, but she is as strong as anybody in the Senate.

I am not going to go through the entire list of people. Many, many worked hard.

The chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator INOUE, is a hero in many different ways. He is a Member of the Senate who has had the Congressional Medal of Honor awarded to him for his valiant efforts in World War II.

The chairman of the Finance Committee, Senator BAUCUS, was involved in this from the very beginning and did such a great job.

My personal staff has spent longer hours than I have put in. My chief of staff Gary Myrick is very quiet but such a help to me and the Senate; Randy Devalk, everyone in the Senate depends on him. He is a wealth of knowledge, a fountain of legislative information, and he has just been, really, a remarkably good person.

Mr. President, I am sure I have left off people, but this piece of legislation, I am so happy we were able to get it done.

I will never, ever forget the valiancy of those three brave Republicans who broke from the pack and stood alone to tell America that we needed to do something with our economy which needed help: Senator SNOWE from Maine, and Senator COLLINS from Maine, Senator SPECTER from Pennsylvania. But for them we would not be where we are.

Senator INOUE was masterful in what he did. Senator BAUCUS was tremendous in the Finance Committee, and his staff. Senator BAUCUS's staff was really very good, led by Russ Sullivan, who we depend on—all of us—for his knowledge. He is a CPA. He has been a feature in the Senate for a long time and he was so very important.

I did not mention a person we have come to depend on in the Senate—all of us—because he has been the chief person on the Appropriations Committee for Senator BYRD, and that is Chuck Kieffer, who was with us all the time, as was Senator INOUE's chief clerk on the Appropriations Committee, Charlie Houy.

Now, as I said, I am sure I have missed a few people because this was, really, a big team effort.

In my own mind, this piece of legislation is the most important piece of legislation I have worked on for the country. The country is in trouble, and we are so fortunate we were able to get it passed. It is going to give this country a shot in the arm. My State of Nevada needs this so very much. We are going to have a number of meetings in Nevada next week to talk about all the good that will flow to Nevada as a result of its passage.

As usual, Lula Davis is so important to how we function here. She is the person who tells us how we can move forward on things. She is invaluable to every Democratic Senator, and especially to me.

As I announced earlier, Mr. President, the next vote will occur at 11 a.m., Tuesday, February 24. That vote will be on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the District of Columbia House voting rights legislation.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2009, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. REID. So, Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the foregoing requests are all agreed to.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 11:03 p.m., adjourned until Monday, February 23, 2009, at 2 p.m.