

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator SHAHEEN, I ask unanimous consent that Roger Thoman, a legislative fellow in her office, be permitted floor privileges during the consideration of the START Treaty and any votes related to that matter.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that CDR Brent Breining, a defense legislative fellow assigned to my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the debate on treaty No. 111-5, the New START Treaty.

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to CDR Andre Coleman, a Department of Defense Fellow, who has been extremely helpful in my office, from the Department of the Navy, during the Senate's consideration in executive session of Treaty Document 111-5, the New START Treaty.

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

CONTROLLING SPENDING

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to note that we just saw a rather extraordinary event on the floor of the Senate. I first came to the U.S. Senate in 1987, and I saw the practice of earmarking and porkbarrel spending grow and grow and grow, to the point where last November 2 the American people overwhelmingly rejected this practice of out-of-control spending and debt that we have laid on our children and our grandchildren.

I also, along with the Republican leader, would like to thank our members of the Appropriations Committee, who clearly heard that message and heard the outcry when the American people began to become aware of what was contemplated to be done in the Congress of the United States. This outcry reverberated all over America, including the State of Arizona. And the outcry was finally heard by at least 42 Members on this side of the aisle.

So I appreciate the fact the majority leader has agreed to a continuing resolution. But have no doubt as to why it happened. It happened because the majority leader didn't have the votes. He didn't have 60 votes that would have then allowed for this monstrosity to be foisted off on the American people.

So I wish to thank Members here on this side of the aisle, and some on the other side, who also said they were ready to stand up against this. But most of all, I wish to thank the American people. I thank those who made the calls, those who sent the e-mails, those who stood up and called in to the talk shows all over America and said: We have had enough. Haven't they listened to the message we were trying to send on November 2?

So I think this is a great victory for the American people today because we would have spent \$1.1 trillion, at least \$8 billion of it, \$8.3 billion, in earmarks that had never had a hearing, that had never had any scrutiny, had never seen the light of day, but had been put in by very powerful Members of this body on the Appropriations Committee.

So I would like to extend my gratitude to the American people, the tea partiers, those who have aligned themselves with the cause to stop the spending and the mortgaging of our children's and grandchildren's future. We have amassed a \$40,000 debt for every man, woman, and child in America. The latest commission that reported out clearly indicated we are on a collision course that could bring down the very economy of this country.

So I am encouraged greatly by the action taken tonight to do away with this monstrosity and go back to maybe a one-page continuing resolution to keep the government in business until the new Members of Congress and the new Members of this body who were elected last November can have their voices heard in the deliberations of this body and how their tax dollars are dispensed with and how those that are borrowed are dispensed.

I see the Senator from Missouri is about to speak. I wish to thank her for her efforts in trying to bring about an end to this spending spree.

So I again wish to express my gratitude to all Members, including especially the tough decision made by the Republican members of the Appropriations Committee, to stand so we could stop this thing in its tracks. I want to thank the American people whose voices were heard in this body, and that forced the decision that was made today.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. MCCAIN. Yes.

Mr. KIRK. As the most junior people, for those who don't understand what just happened, did we just win?

Mr. MCCAIN. I think there is very little doubt. The majority leader of the U.S. Senate would not have taken the action he just took if he didn't have 41 votes to stop this monstrosity.

Mr. KIRK. So for economic conservatives, a 1,924-page bill just died?

Mr. MCCAIN. A 1,924-page bill just died.

Mr. KIRK. And 6,000 earmarks will not now move forward?

Mr. MCCAIN. Yes. I feel badly about some of those earmarks because I had so much fun with them.

Mr. KIRK. All of the GOP Senators just signed a letter to the leadership this morning saying we should not move forward with this as representatives of the new mandate. It seems that change has come to the Senate tonight with the death of this \$1.1 trillion bill.

Mr. MCCAIN. I have no doubt.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I—

Mr. MCCAIN. I am not finished. Do I have the floor?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, the Senator from Arizona has the floor.

Mr. MCCAIN. I appreciate the regular order.

This may be a seminal moment in the recent history of the Senate. This may be a seminal moment that stops the practice which has moved power all to the appropriators in this body—a few—and taken it away from the rest of us and may return us to an authorizing and then appropriating process. But most importantly, I think it is a seminal moment because for the first time since I have been here, we stood up and said: Enough. Stop.

Mr. KIRK. I congratulate the Senator.

Mr. MCCAIN. Thank you.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I agree with my colleague from Arizona on many things when it comes to appropriations, including that I have made a decision that earmarking is not a process that I think is the appropriate way to spend public money. But I am a little confused about some of the righteous indignation coming from the Republican side of the aisle about this bill.

The omnibus 2010 they have sitting out there—they are wanting the American people to think this document came from Democrats. They want the American people to think that omnibus 2010, all of those pages sitting there, were done by Democrats. They weren't done by Democrats. Those pages were done by Democrats and Republicans. Every bit of that document was drafted by Republicans and Democrats, right down to the earmarks. And for the minority leader to stand here and act as if this document is something that is the fault of the Democratic Party when he well knows he has been involved—I have been involved in terms of trying to get the number down, and I am glad we succeeded in getting the number down, as has been referenced, to the Sessions-McCaskill number, but this was a bipartisan effort to get the number down.

The irony is, guess who has earmarks in there. The minority leader, who just voted on a moratorium for earmarks 10 minutes ago. Did he pull his earmarks out? No. Did any of the Republicans who voted for a moratorium on earmarks pull their earmarks out before this bill came to the floor? We could have eliminated a few pages. So I just don't think the righteous indignation works.

This was a bipartisan effort, drafted by Republicans and Democrats. It came to the floor after months of work by Democrats and Republicans. It was presented to this body in a bipartisan way to vote on. I wasn't going to vote for it. I am against it. So I think I have a slight bit of credibility to call these guys on this notion that this is something that sprung from nowhere out of some back room on the Democratic