

He has moved quickly this year to make important financial and management improvements at the Government Printing Office. These include cutting costs with a buyout of 15 percent of GPO's workforce, which will save \$33 million annually; greatly reducing costs for overtime, travel, executive hires, and other discretionary costs; reducing GPO's overhead expenses; and negotiating successfully with the unions, resulting in a zero increase in salaries.

I might add, perhaps he is being held up because of his union background, but we have seen in his year as acting administrator that he has been fiscally extremely responsible and successful. Maybe he is better at doing this than other people would be.

He also has staff identifying nearly \$30 million in outstanding payments owed to the GPO by other Federal agencies and collecting almost \$15 million of that in a few months.

Mr. Boarman ordered the first survey ever of congressional offices on their need for printed copies of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, resulting in an 18-percent reduction in printed copies and more cost savings.

Mr. Boarman has aggressively pushed the GPO to extend electronic online publishing and databases, as Congress has asked. In short, he has already demonstrated he is the kind of competent, committed, experienced leader GPO needs.

The fact that we have not cleared this nomination is outrageous. The two Republican Senators who had holds on this nomination, holds that had nothing to do with concerns about Mr. Boarman but with other nonrelated nominations, finally released their holds yesterday. Now, today, some new obstacle has arisen on the Republican side. We know it is not an objection to Mr. Boarman himself but we have run out of time.

It is appalling when you get a public servant who cares about this government, in a nonpolitical place, the Government Printing Office, who has done an excellent job by all accounts—cutting costs, what we on both sides of the aisle want—and he gets held up. Instead of getting held up he should get an award for the job he has done. Yet he is held up and caught in the politics once again. It is so indicative of the dysfunction of our government. It is bothersome when someone works so hard and does a good job that his nomination can't get through for secret, undisclosed—it is hard to even figure out what reason.

I hope maybe before we leave today my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will look at Mr. Boarman's record—look at the unanimous vote he received in the Rules Committee; every Republican voted for him—and most of all look at what he has done in the Printing Office, and realizing without a leader many of these gains may be lost, costing all of us and the taxpayers millions of dollars, and maybe we will ap-

point him. Delay in this confirmation has shown the confirmation process at its worst and we are now in danger of losing this public servant whose work has produced the kinds of results we want.

I urge the Senate to confirm Mr. Boarman so that the GPO can continue to make progress.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of Colorado). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO PAGES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as we know, very clearly, today is Saturday. But the Senate had some very important work to do today, so we stayed in session to present some issues to the American public that were extremely important. One was to make sure there would be no tax increase on millions of American families—in fact, 160 million.

We had a duty to be here, the Senators, but also other people had a duty to be here, and they are here. Four very dedicated pages are here today: Grace Mason, from Roanoke, VA; Kristina Biddle, from Hockessin, DE; Mitchell Bustillo, of Fort Worth, TX; and Zach Schroeder, from Clarksville, TN.

They didn't have to be here. They could be home with their families during this holiday season, as the other pages are. Instead, they stayed to help keep the Senate running smoothly. They didn't have to be asked. They volunteered.

We expect a lot of our pages, and I so appreciate their work. I have had two granddaughters who were pages—my two oldest grandchildren—and it actually changed their lives. I say that as seriously as I could say anything. Ryan and Mattie were not interested much

about government. They had other things to do as juniors in high school. But they came back here in this environment, where they saw us wandering around and making speeches and voting and they got interested in reading the newspapers and watching the news more intently. My two granddaughters now are both in France studying abroad. One is a junior at New York University, the other is a senior at The New School in New York. I mean it when I say their lives were changed as a result of this program. I not only heard it from these two young women, my granddaughters, but I have heard it from their parents, about what a significant change it made.

As I said, we expect a lot of the pages. They work long, hard hours, as do Senators and their staffs. So I want them to know, speaking for every Senator, the pages here are terrific. We appreciate their work. It is a tradition that has been here for a long time, and I will do everything I can to protect the pages and the work they do.

I thank them for their service and wish them the very best of everything in their next endeavor. But I am confident, as with Mattie and Ryan, their lives will have been changed as a result of their being here.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations:

Calendar Nos. 67, 86, 108, 112, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 338, 339, 340, 344, 345, 346, 403, 413, 421, 422, 450, 456, 494, 495, 496, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, and 543.

Of course, Mr. President, I am asking unanimous consent that these numbers I have just read—which all are human beings—and all nominations be placed on the Secretary's desk; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. McCONNELL. Reserving the right to object, we are ready and willing to move forward by consent with a package of nominations, with positions both in the executive and judicial branches; and just as soon as I receive confirmation from the administration that it will respect the practice and the precedent on recess appointments, we can get those people confirmed.

I look forward to receiving this confirmation from the administration so