

would have no way to detect any difference of performance, any less dedication or any less efficiency.

So I wish to commend the leaders for providing that kind of virus that infects our staff and creates a harmonious committee. Senator BYRD, the ranking member of our committee, certainly has become again a part of that overall philosophy and that kind of performance of our committee, and I wish to take this time to thank Senator BYRD as well, the ranking member of the full committee.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

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

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

#### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 641

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate, at 1:30 p.m., turn to the consideration of Calendar No. 47, S. 641, the Ryan White Care Act.

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

Mr. LOTT. It is the hope of the leadership that all of the opening statements would be concluded on this bill today and an amendment would be laid down for consideration when the Senate returns to this item next week.

With that announcement, there will be no further votes today. The first votes on Monday will occur beginning at 5 p.m.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

Mr. McCONNELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

#### ETHICS COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to take just a moment to respond to the distinguished Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER], who has been working to achieve public hearings on the sexual misconduct case against Senator PACKWOOD.

Mr. President, on July 10, several Senators wrote to me and the vice chairman urging the committee to convene public hearings. Several days later, my friend from California wrote to us on her own to inform us if the Ethics Committee had not voted to hold public hearings within a week of

her July 14 letter, she would seek a vote of the full Senate on the issue of public hearings in the Packwood case.

Today, the Senator said that if the committee has not met by the close of business today, she will bring her legislation to the floor at the first opportunity next week.

Mr. President, I think I speak for all committee chairmen and chairwomen as well as previous chairmen and chairwomen when I say our committee schedule and agenda must not be dictated by another Senator. As strongly as the Senator from California believes there should be hearings in the Packwood case, I strongly believe that the Ethics Committee's timetable must not be set by a single Senator.

One thing is certain. The Ethics Committee will not meet today and will not schedule a future meeting today. We will not respond to any attempts to threaten the committee. If we open the door to that, in the future there could well be numerous efforts to bring ethics matters to the full Senate, and that is a dangerous road to take, Mr. President.

The committee would like to complete work on the Packwood case but perhaps everyone needs a cooling-off period. As long as Senator BOXER's threat remains, the cooling-off period will continue.

The one issue Senator BOXER and I agree upon is that the case before the committee is a serious one. It is one which has commanded the attention of committee members for countless hours over the last 2½ years. The committee members have labored long and hard, and they know much more about this case than any other Member of the Senate.

There is much to say about the Packwood case. Now is not the time to say it. I can assure my colleagues and the Senator from California that at the appropriate time, I will speak fully about the case and about the committee's work. At that time, I hope my colleagues will have a better understanding of the significance and the dimension of the matter.

The Senator's efforts are ill-informed and badly timed. After all, the committee lost practically a year in a legal dispute over obtaining Senator PACKWOOD's diary as evidence in the case. If Senator BOXER takes us on another such frolic and detour, it will only further distract us and prevent us from concluding this important case, and it will interfere with the Senate's agenda and the work the American people sent us here to do.

So if we find ourselves on the floor in the coming days debating legislation regarding hearings in the Packwood case or any other subject related to Ethics Committee procedures, I will be prepared, and I am sure others will be prepared, to discuss and debate congressional action on misconduct cases in the past and other relevant issues.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

Mr. SPECTER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

#### RESCISSIONS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I had sought recognition prior to the votes on the amendments offered by the Senator from Illinois, Senator CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN, and the Senator from Minnesota, Senator PAUL WELLSTONE, prior to those votes. But since all time had expired and there was a tight timetable because other Senators wished to catch planes, there was not an opportunity to speak, and I would like to make a few brief comments at this time.

I opposed those amendments not because I would not have preferred to have seen the additional funding in those important accounts, but because those issues had been resolved in a very extensive negotiation session with the House of Representatives and further proceedings with the White House.

When Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN made the statement, yes, we have to make cuts, that they have to be made fairly, I certainly agree with her totally. The measure which came out of the subcommittee which I chair, the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education, was a vigorous, incisive, strenuous effort to make those cuts as fairly as we could and to establish priorities.

When the amendment offered by Senator WELLSTONE and Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN included veterans job training, displaced workers job training, education infrastructure, safe and drug free schools, education technology, Eisenhower professional development, job training partnership youth job training and the job training partnership adult job training, I would have wanted very much to have included those additional sums. My voting record is plain on that subject.

In fact, when the House of Representatives sent over a rescissions package of \$5.9 billion, as a result of action taken by the Senate subcommittee which I chair and then the full Senate in extended proceedings, that \$5.9 billion in cuts was reduced by some \$3 billion so that we did restore a tremendous amount of money.

When it comes to the question of LIHEAP, low-income heat and energy assistance, as Senator WELLSTONE noted—I was on the floor at the time—he referred to the Senator from Pennsylvania as a champion of LIHEAP, which I thank him for and I think the record of the last 15 years will support.

When the House of Representatives had sent over \$5.9 billion in cuts and had zeroed out \$1.319 billion, I made a fight of it. I started that fight and won it by reinserting \$1 billion of those funds and seeing to it that we added an additional \$300 million to the President's emergency fund. That means