

project costs, will be considered should the Portland region seek funding for this project.

ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

The conferees are concerned with the delay of the Federal Transit Administration in obligating the funds previously provided in fiscal years 1994 and 1995 for the Orange County Transitway project. The conferees are concerned that the Anaheim Intermodal Transportation Center is not an element of the Transitway project. The conferees, therefore, direct the FTA to work expeditiously to obligate these funds once all pending planning and financial issues are addressed adequately.

KANSAS CITY

Although no funds have been provided for the Kansas City, Missouri light rail project, the conferees believe that based on the results of the recently completed major investment study, the project may have merit and therefore encourage project sponsors to continue to seek federal support in the future.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I yield the floor, and 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. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

THE RECONCILIATION BILL

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I heard a great deal of blather this morning about tricking and treating, about that great reconciliation bill that was passed last Friday—it may have been a little after midnight—and that that was a great treat for the American people.

Mr. President, here it is on my desk. The white papers represent the Senate amendment; the 1,862 pages just in the white. The two blue volumes, 1,839 pages, represent the House reconciliation bill.

These 1,839 pages that represent the House reconciliation bill were given 6 hours—all of 6 hours—of debate in the other body. Think of it, 6 hours! And the 1,862 pages in the Senate amendment were given 20 hours, plus 1 additional hour, I believe, on the Roth amendment, and a minute equally divided on each of various and sundry other amendments. So there you have it, 1,862 pages, a little over 20 hours, parts of 4 days in the Senate!

Now, who under God's vast Heaven knows what is in this bill? Not one Senator, not one Senator out of the 100 Senators, knew when he cast his vote for or against that monstrosity, not one knew what he was voting on! No single committee held hearings on all of this. Different committees held different hearings on parts of it. But no committee person, no committee chairman, no Member of the Senate, no staff person knew everything that Senators were voting on, and most Senators knew very little about it. We simply

rubberstamped the package that was sent to the Senate by the Senate Budget Committee, and not all of the members of that committee knew what they were sending to the Senate. Is that legislating? Is that trick or treating?

Mr. President, those who wish to proclaim to the high heavens that this is a great masterpiece will come to find that "Confusion now hath made his masterpiece," and the worm will turn! The American people are going to find out in due time about the Senate's handiwork and the handiwork of the other body—what we passed for a law.

We might as well have been blindfolded. We might as well have had our ears plugged. When a pile of paper like that is acted upon in the course of 42 hours—including time consumed by roll calls—under the restrictions that govern the actions of the Senate on a reconciliation bill, how can one say that the Senate has not perpetrated a gigantic fraud upon the American people? The people send us here to know what we are doing, to know what we are voting on, and we did not. We did not. And God knows that in the heart of every Senator, that Senator has to admit that he did not know what was in that bill. He knew a little here and a little there, but he did not know most of what is in that bill.

So there you have it. That is the colossal trick or treat of the century! Right there it is. Halloween came last Friday. It is over! The kids may go around tonight and pick up a little candy and chewing gum, here and there, but the American people got theirs last Friday night!

Now the two bodies, the conferees of the two bodies have to meet and go over all of this mass of wood pulp and try to make sense out of it and then bring back what will result from the conference, the resolution of the differences between the two bodies. And who knows what differences there are? We will have that conference report up before the Senate one day.

There is no legal requirement, there is no constitutional requirement that I know of that says the Senate has to pass a reconciliation bill. Show me! I do not know of any. There is no doubt that there would be some serious budgetary consequences that would flow from not having a reconciliation bill but we do not have to have one. All we have to do is pass the appropriations bills, raise the debt limit and go home.

Think of it! If we continue to go down that road, all we will need to do is show up for a week, 10 days perhaps, during a whole year. Except for the Byrd rule, if the Senate so instructs the committees, all the committees could just send to the Budget Committee—it is not the Budget Committee's fault—all the other committees could just send to the Budget Committee whatever their pleasures might be, and the Budget Committee would be forced to put all those into one massive bill, and we could just pass that one bill and pass one omnibus appropriations bill and go home. Hot ziggedy dog, go home!

Just spend just a few days here, we have a few votes, go home! Just pass one bill! Just rubber stamp whatever the Budget Committee is forced to send to the Senate floor. Rubber stamp it! That would be another trick or treat for the American people.

Well, Mr. President, it seems to me it is preposterous to even claim that we are legislating with any knowledge or wisdom of what we are doing when we last week passed a bill like that. It was a joke we played on the American people—and a bad one.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair, and I thank all Senators, and 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.

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

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

THANKING SENATE STAFF

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, the conference report has been the subject of praise and criticism and blame. Let me take this opportunity to express my appreciation and, I am sure, the Senate's appreciation to the floor staff under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate, Kelly Johnston, for the outstanding service that the floor staff provided to the Senate during the lengthy debate on the reconciliation bill that was passed in the early hours of the morning on Saturday, October 28.

I commend the hard work and long hours of the legislative clerk, Scott Bates, and his able assistant, David Tinsley, as well as the bill clerk, Kathie Alvarez. But most particularly, Mr. President, I applaud the outstanding efforts of the office of the Parliamentarian of the Senate, the staff of very hard-working and dedicated professionals. That office is under the supervision of the Senate Parliamentarian, Bob Dove. And he is very ably assisted by Alan Frumin, Kevin Kayes, and Beth Smerko, as well as Sally Goffinet.

The reconciliation bill that the Senate adopted last week was a massive and complicated omnibus bill. Many difficult rulings were required of the Parliamentarian, particularly in the context of the often maligned Byrd rule and the need to interpret the consistency or lack thereof of particular amendments with respect to the Byrd rule.

In many of these instances, proponents of amendments argued adamantly and with passion before the Parliamentarians that their amendments were relevant under the Byrd