

reports of the negotiations that went on into the wee hours this morning. Also, we will get a report on how negotiations are going on the illegal immigration bill.

Last night, we did file a cloture motion with regard to the illegal immigration conference report with a roll-call vote on invoking cloture occurring on Monday, September 30, at a time to be determined by the two leaders. We assume that would be mid-afternoon, perhaps around 2 o'clock on Monday. So Senators need to be aware that it will occur before 5 o'clock in all likelihood, and they would need to be here for a vote earlier than that during the day.

The reason for that, obviously, is it is the end of the fiscal year, and we will have other business we will be having to work on. If we get an agreement worked out, of course, then the chance is that the illegal immigration bill would be put into the CR, and it would not be necessary to have a cloture vote or further debate on the bill at that time. We will keep all Senators advised over the next couple hours what is happening with the negotiations, and, of course, we do hope to get up some of these conference reports today.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH). Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak therein not to exceed 5 minutes each. Specifically, the Senator from Arizona [Mr. MCCAIN], has 20 minutes; the Senator from Maine [Mr. COHEN], has 45 minutes; the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO], has 10 minutes; the Senator from Georgia [Mr. NUNN], has 30 minutes; the Senator from Delaware [Mr. BIDEN], has 20 minutes.

Mr. THURMOND. 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. NUNN. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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 Senator from Georgia is recognized for up to 30 minutes.

SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I suspect that all Senators, when we first come to this great institution we call the U.S. Senate, look around this Chamber for role models and mentors to help us become effective and productive Senators. I was privileged, after graduating law school at Emory University 1962, to come to Washington and work for Congressman Paul Vinson for nearly a year. I was privileged to follow in

the footsteps of Senator Richard Russell. These were certainly two great Georgians who set an example of public service that I have sought to emulate. I was honored to have served with many Senators I have learned from, including Senator John Stennis and Senator Scoop Jackson, two legendary Senators who served in the Richard Russell tradition.

I have also learned very much from a unique Senator, the Senator from West Virginia by the name of ROBERT BYRD. Before I leave the Senate which I love, I want to take a few moments to thank my colleague and my good friend, Senator ROBERT BYRD, for the encouragement and assistance he has given me during my entire career here in the Senate and for the example he has set for all of us who served here and who have observed his leadership and his personality.

It has been said that great men are like eagles. They do not flock together. You find them one at a time, soaring alone, using their skill and their strengths to reach new heights and to seek new horizons. Such a man and such an eagle is ROBERT BYRD.

Twenty-four years after I first came to the Senate, Senator BYRD continues to be a role model for me. His tremendous understanding and deep reverence for the role of the Senate in our democracy; his total commitment to serving the people of his beloved State of West Virginia and the people of this country; his life-long commitment to learning; his sense of honor and integrity; his commitment to high moral standards; and his tremendous work ethic represent the highest ideals of public service.

ROLE OF THE SENATE

The "Almanac of American Politics" has what I think is a very appropriate description of Senator BYRD. "Robert Byrd, senior senator from West Virginia," says the Almanac, "may come closer to the kind of senator the Founding Fathers had in mind than any other." Mr. President, the ideals of the Founding Fathers and the role they envisioned for the Senate have always shaped Senator BYRD's performance of his duties.

ROBERT BYRD reveres the Senate of the United States, not just because he serves in it, but because of his respect for its role in the history of our Nation and the world. Over the years, Senator BYRD has devoted an enormous amount of time and effort to the study of the Senate's role in our history and its duties under the Constitution. His four volumes of speeches on the history of the Senate mark Senator BYRD as the most knowledgeable person on the history of this body to ever serve in the Senate, and he is the leading expert on this subject in the country today.

By the power of his intellect and the depth of his understanding of the Senate's history and rules, Senator BYRD is not just the Senate's institutional memory. He is also the custodian of the Senate ideals and values that go

back to the Founding Fathers and even to ancient Rome—as he reminded us in his extraordinary series of speeches on the Senate of the Roman Republic in 1993. I have heard Senator BYRD recall the words of Majorianus, a Roman Senator, who said that when he was crowned emperor in 457 A.D. that he still gloried in the name of Senator. "That," Senator BYRD is fond of saying, "is my bottom line."

Like the authors of our Constitution, Senator BYRD views the legislative branch as closest to the people and the primary safeguard of their rights and liberties. In his speeches on the history of the U.S. Senate, Senator BYRD points out that the Senate is unique not only because its rules allow unlimited debate, and that, of course, attracts a lot of attention from time to time. Unlike some legislative bodies in the world, the Senate can originate legislation. In addition, Senator BYRD reminds us:

The Senate not only has the power to legislate. It also has the power to investigate, to approve the ratification of treaties, to confirm nominations, and to try impeached persons. Thus, it has judicial, legislative, executive and investigative powers. This combination of powers makes the Senate unique.

Senator BYRD's knowledge of the rules and procedures of the Senate has become legendary. Senator BYRD recalled that in 1967, when he was elected Secretary of the Senate Democratic Conference, "I began to study the book of precedents and the book of rules, and soon came to know something about floor work. As a result, I became proficient in the use of the rules." Mr. President, saying that ROBERT BYRD is proficient in the use of the rules is like saying Rembrandt knew something about painting. I suspect there have been few Members of the Senate in the last 200 years who approached Senator BYRD's knowledge of the rules and precedents of the Senate.

As a result of his exhaustive study of Senate procedure, Senator BYRD has had a major impact in shaping the rules and precedents under which the Senate operates today. Some of these precedents bear his name. The Byrd rule has become a household term for anyone who follows the progress of reconciliation bills in the Congress. That rule, of course, precludes consideration of provisions in reconciliation bills that are not related to the deficit reduction goals of the reconciliation process.

In his farewell address earlier this year, the majority leader, another remarkable legislator, Senator Dole, paid an unusual tribute to Senator BYRD when he said, "I have learned from a lot of people in this room. I have even gone to Senator BYRD when I was the majority leader to ask his advice on how to defeat him on an issue. If you know ROBERT BYRD as I do, he gave me the answer." That is high praise indeed from a man with Senator Dole's great skills as a legislator in this body, who was in the opposing party—actually