

and completely investigate the conduct of such elections where the integrity and result of the election is legitimately called into question. The minority is refusing to allow—in fact, is actively obstructing—the Senate from conducting a thorough and complete investigation of the election in Louisiana.

If the minority wishes to prevent the Senate from living up to its duty regarding this election contest, and wishes to prevent the Senate from considering these important matters that I have noted and to shut down the Senate, then the minority must assume the responsibility for the consequences. Mr. President, good faith and cooperation is a two-way street. We believe that it is important to conduct and complete this election investigation in a thorough and complete manner. We are bound and determined that the investigation will be completed despite obstructionist tactics. I urge the minority to recognize the importance of this subject and the essential place that good faith plays in this legislative process. I urge the minority to assist us in completing this important investigation and to work together with us in good faith to address the many other subjects which are important to the American people.

I will sum it up this way. This is not the way to get the investigation by the Rules Committee concluded. In fact, it will cause difficulty and will probably delay it. The goal is not—there is no way we could just say, OK, it is over right now. The intent of the chairman is to have a hearing, to see what evidence they have found during the August recess, and I presume to have a meeting at some point to decide what action, if any or none, is to be taken. We will conclude this. We have had to proceed, frankly, without the cooperation of the Democrats. I have been in Congress 25 years. I have never, never, ever before seen one party or the other, either party, walk out on a committee's investigation or activities, even though there have been many, many investigations, several in which I was involved.

When I can look my colleagues in the Senate and the American people in the eye and say we have looked at this and we have found out as best we could—with the lack of help from the FBI, for instance, in most instances—we have concluded what happened or did not happen, and we in good conscience can say that, when I can do that, then we will conclude it. I can't do that right now.

But rather than engaging in extended debate at this time, there will obviously be other opportunities to do that and—

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, could I have, say, a minute and a half?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I will yield the floor at this point, but I do hope we can be brief so we can get the committee started.

Mr. WARNER. I will be brief. I thank the majority leader. I thank both leaders.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANTORUM). The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. I want to assure the Senate that I said in Louisiana, as I concluded the second hearing—and we had a total of 4 days of hearings—it would be my intention to come back and recommend to the Rules Committee and the leadership of the Senate that I have another hearing, at which time we will assess in specific the voluminous amount of record material now in our possession from the gambling industry and that within a period of perhaps a week after that I would schedule a second meeting, at which time I would give to the full Committee on Rules all of the evidence, my own assessment, and then entertain such resolutions as I or other members may wish to submit.

That I think can be done within a 3-week period of time, as I roughly outlined this morning to my distinguished leader. But I decided on that schedule 10 days ago.

Now, I say to you that thus far there has been no evidence which, in the judgment of this Senator, has impugned Senator LANDRIEU, but that is not the underlying issue. It is whether or not there were other factors in this election which could have affected the outcome as a consequence of criminal fraud. And I have said, much to the discouragement of many, that thus far, after the first hearing in Louisiana, there was no body of evidence which I felt could meet that burden.

I cannot make the same statement after the second hearing in Louisiana, because I haven't had the opportunity to assess four boxes of information. But we are proceeding, although handicapped, as expeditiously as we can. I have always been absolutely objective and fair about my pronouncements in this case and my assessment of the evidence. But until such time as we have looked in every area where potentially that quantum of fraud which could have affected the outcome of the election might have occurred, I cannot say this investigation would be complete. I do believe the work that needs to be done under my leadership can be concluded in the third week of September.

RECESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I renew my request that the Senate recess until the hour of 4:30.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 2:12 p.m., recessed until 4:30 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer [Mr. HAGEL].

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 1079, AS MODIFIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators STEVENS and GRAMS be added as cosponsors to amendment No. 1079 to S. 1061.

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

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent I be permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes on the pending D'Amato amendment.

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

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I support the amendment by Senator D'AMATO to add funding for the support services for seniors to the additional funding. They perform a very vital service as places for seniors to gather and to have their meals and to carry out the purposes of the legislation to improve the quality of life in the golden years; and especially in the context where senior benefits have come under such attack, so much concern that I heard, for example, in my travels through Pennsylvania, where there is concern about the solidity of Social Security and what is happening with Medicare. I believe it is a wise course to make an allocation from administrative costs across the board, to add the funding in the D'Amato amendment.

We have funded, last year, some \$300,556,000. The administration made a request to cut that funding to \$291,375,000. Our Senate markup, agreed to by Senator HARKIN and myself in our committee and in the full committee, was \$305,556,000. So, instead of dropping the amount by more than \$9 million as the administration had requested, we put an additional \$5 million in. On reflection, hearing the arguments of the Senator from New York, Senator D'AMATO, I think that the addition of this \$40 million is well placed, so I lend my voice in support of the pending amendment.

Mr. President, I note the presence of the Senator from New York on the floor. I see him reaching for the microphone.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, let me thank the chairman of this committee, Senator SPECTER. As I indicated before, this is a most difficult, difficult task, the management of scarce resources for Labor, Health, and Human Services, with the demands from the various communities for additional funding for medical research, the scarceness of resources, and the difficult time in the allocations. His support is greatly welcomed in this area. I am deeply appreciative.