

Senate and working with the leadership on both sides of the aisle.

SECOND SESSION OF THE 105TH
CONGRESS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I welcome back the majority leader and again wish him a happy New Year and commend him for his leadership. During the past 3 months, when we have not been here, I have seen him on several public appearances and, as always, he has been articulate and very forthcoming with regard to the schedule and our plans for the coming weeks. I welcome the opportunity to work closely with him as we pursue our national agenda, and appreciate very much the cooperation he has already demonstrated in helping senators make plans both in terms of days, as well as weeks, ahead. I trust the past 3 months have been productive and enjoyable, Mr. President, and I expect it has provided us with rest and the perspective to fulfill our obligations now.

It is obvious we return under very difficult circumstances. Allegations have been made against the President and have been vehemently denied. The legal process continues, flawed as it may be. While the circumstances may be extraordinary, the work of this Government must go on. The American system is uniquely constructed to withstand the winds of controversy and crisis which howl throughout history, and this moment is no exception. Important matters are at hand, dealing with both foreign and domestic policy, and the American people have a right to insist that their leaders continue to give those matters their full attention.

Congress has a clear responsibility—a duty and an obligation—to go about our work on behalf of the American people. Despite allegations, investigations, and obvious distractions, our country would be ill-served if we were to allow interruption in the steady function of Government or the remarkable progress that we have made on matters of great importance to our Nation.

Democratic Senators begin this year with a true sense of accomplishment over what we have achieved and a sense of purpose directed toward the challenges ahead. We need to continue the economic momentum born of the 1993 budget plan, a momentum that will propel us in 1998 to the first balanced budget in over 30 years, and our first opportunity in our lifetime to reduce the accumulated debt.

South Dakotans, like all Americans, have made clear their expectations. Having just returned from home, my conversations with South Dakotans remain clear and well understood. South Dakotans have urged us to work together, to continue to demonstrate that democracy can be both responsive and effective in addressing the challenges that lie ahead. They say, build on the extraordinary budgetary and economic record of the last 5 years, pay

off the debt, solve the Social Security and Medicare problems we face. Remember that 42 million of us have no health insurance—find a way to solve that national embarrassment. Remember, above all, in this new age of information, that education, beginning virtually at birth, is one of the most important responsibilities of government at every level. There is so much to be done: Improve wages and child care, fix our political finance system that is broken and in great need of repair, be a leader to the world.

New and old democracies around the world look to us for leadership, and there is no one else. In Iraq and Bosnia, in Europe and Asia, America's leadership is needed now more than ever. That is the message given to me by South Dakotans back home over and over again. Their wisdom dictates our collective response.

Now is the time to go to work. As the majority leader has already indicated, we have very few days in this session of Congress. We must approach our work with urgency and with energy.

We must make the most of each one. Over the past few months, Democrats in the Senate and House, working with the administration, have built a legislative agenda that addresses many of the challenges our country must face. It will build on the themes that we hear tonight in the State of the Union Message. It represents the legislative embodiment of the priorities contained in the President's budget to be submitted next week.

So, again, I look forward to working closely with the majority leader. We will all certainly work with our Republican colleagues, because we believe this can be a most productive session. We begin today by extending a hand of partnership and a sincere hope for real success. I thank, again, the majority leader for offering me the opportunity to respond to his kind remarks.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MEASURE PLACED ON
CALENDAR—S. 1530

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills due for a second reading. I ask that the title of the first bill be read.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1530) to resolve ongoing tobacco litigation, to reform the civil justice system responsible for adjudicating tort claims against companies that manufacture tobacco products, and establish a national tobacco policy for the United States that will decrease youth tobacco use and reduce the marketing of tobacco products to young Americans.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I object to further consideration of this matter at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

MEASURE PLACED ON
CALENDAR—H.R. 2709

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the second bill be read the second time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2709) to impose certain sanctions on foreign persons who transfer items contributing to Iran's efforts to acquire, develop, or produce ballistic missiles, and to implement the obligations of the United States under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I object to further proceedings on this item at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. GREGG addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

Mr. GREGG. I understand we are in morning business and that I have 20 minutes under the order, is that correct?

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be a period for the transaction of the morning business, not to exceed the hour of 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes.

Mr. LEAHY. Will the Senator yield for a unanimous consent request? I will be very brief.

Mr. GREGG. Yes, I yield to the Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I might be recognized for 10 minutes following the distinguished Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. I ask to modify that by allowing Senator HELMS to speak for a period of 3 minutes prior to my speaking.

Mr. LEAHY. I certainly have no objection to that, Mr. President. I see the distinguished Chairman on the floor. After the distinguished Senator from North Carolina and the distinguished Senator from New Hampshire, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized.

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

The Senator from North Carolina is recognized for 3 minutes.

MRS. ALICE WYNNE GATSIS
SPEAKS ON THE 10TH AMENDMENT

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the North Carolina General Assembly embarked in 1997 on a significant course—that of inviting some of our State's best-known and best-qualified citizens