

business with Senator BRYAN to be recognized at 11 a.m. and Senator DOMENICI to be recognized at 11:30 a.m.

Following morning business, it is hoped the Senate can resume consideration of the Older Americans Act, with votes expected on two Gregg amendments as well as a vote on final passage. The House is expected to consider the D.C. appropriations conference report, the tax bill, and a continuing resolution today. Therefore, Senators can expect votes during this afternoon's session.

I thank my colleagues for their attention on this matter.

Let me also at this point, on behalf of the majority leader, propound a unanimous consent.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
H.R. 782

Mr. DEWINE. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 782, regarding the Older Americans Act, and it be considered under the following terms: 30 minutes for debate on the bill equally divided in the usual form; that the only amendments in order be the following: One amendment offered by Senator GREGG relating to title V, which would be 2 hours equally divided for that particular amendment, and an additional amendment offered by Senator GREGG relating to title V, and that would be 2 hours equally divided as well, with no other amendments or motions in order to the bill.

I further ask unanimous consent that following the use or yielding back of time on each amendment, the Senate proceed to a vote on each amendment. Further, I ask that, following the disposition of the above amendments, the bill be read the third time and the Senate then proceed to passage of H.R. 782, as amended, if amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, I say to my friend from Ohio who read the unanimous consent request, the substance of the agreement is fine with the minority. We would only hope that there could be a definite time locked in for a vote. During the last couple of weeks, there have been a lot of Members who simply have not known when they were going to be called upon to vote. They have other business they are conducting. We, again, have no disagreement with the substance of the unanimous consent agreement. However, we object unless we can get a definite time as to when we can vote.

I also say, through the Chair to my friend from Ohio, it is not as if there are a number of votes being anticipated here so that we are going to slow things up if you set, for example, 5 o'clock, which we would suggest, as a definite time for voting on these amendments. So until we can get a definite time locked in for voting on

the amendments, at or about 5 o'clock, we would object, and I do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, if I could, let me thank my colleague from Nevada. I understand there is no objection, actually, to the substance, then, of the agreement and what we are waiting for is some agreement with regard to the actual time the votes will actually take place. Is that correct?

Mr. REID. Yes. I say to my friend, we believe it is a very important piece of legislation. We are glad it is here. We think the time arrangement on the amendments offered by the Senator from New Hampshire is fair. We simply believe we need a time certain to vote. That should be easy to get. I hope the majority leader will agree to that as soon as possible.

Mr. DEWINE. I thank my colleague.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed in morning business.

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

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE OLDER
AMERICANS ACT

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, as the lead sponsor of the Older Americans Act, along with my friend, the chairman of the committee, Senator JEFFORDS, I thought I would take a few moments, even though we are not technically on the bill at this point, to begin a discussion of this bill. I make note to my colleagues in the Chamber that I will be a few minutes in doing this, so if any of my colleagues do want to proceed in morning business on other matters, I will be more than happy to yield when they come to the floor.

We will begin today a debate about a bill that has been long in coming. Previous Congresses have had difficulty reaching agreement on reauthorizing the Older Americans Act for any number of reasons, and previous Congresses have failed to do that. But I think anyone who works in this field, anyone who understands what is going on with the Older Americans Act, knows it is past time for Congress to reauthorize the bill.

This is a bipartisan program. It is a program that dates over 35 years. It is a program that delivers great services to the senior citizens of this country. What we have done in this bill in a very bipartisan fashion is to bring it up to date to meet the needs of senior citizens entering this new century.

This bill is going to help ensure the continuation of valuable supportive services for lower income older Americans. It will establish new and reliable

services from which every older American can benefit and provide support for those caring for older adults.

This reauthorization would not be a reality if it were not for the persistent, bipartisan efforts and dedication of the Senate Aging Subcommittee ranking member, Senator MIKULSKI; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee chairman, Senator JEFFORDS and the ranking member, Senator KENNEDY; the House Education and the Workforce Committee chairman, Congressman GOODLING, and the ranking member, Congressman CLAY; as well as the House Postsecondary Education, Training, and Life-Long Learning Subcommittee Chairman MCKEON and Congressman MARTINEZ. Each has worked tirelessly on this legislation, along with the members and staff of the Senate Aging Subcommittee, the full Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Committee, and the Senate Select Committee on Aging.

I also thank additional colleagues, such as Senator HAGEL, Senator COLLINS, and Senator WYDEN, for their insights and contributions to reaching a bipartisan agreement on this bill. I will mention later the great work that Senator GRASSLEY has also done to offer a new provision in this bill which, again, meets the needs of seniors in this century. Because of this support and help, we are going to see the Older Americans Act finally reauthorized.

Reauthorization attempts in both the 104th and 105th Congresses failed for many reasons. So as chairman of the Aging Subcommittee, I introduced S. 1536, with the hope we could get a reauthorization passed in this Congress. At the end of this past July, our committee marked up that bill and developed a solid piece of legislation that reflects months of hard work and deliberation. I am very pleased that yesterday the House of Representatives passed this bill overwhelmingly by a vote of 405-2. They passed their reauthorization bill which represents the combined legislative efforts of both the House and the Senate.

I point out to my colleagues that one of the things we did as we worked through this bill for the last 2 years was to work with the House Members on both sides of the aisle so we would finally emerge with a consensus bill and a bill we would be able to pass in both the Senate and the House.

This reauthorization bill we have before us today represents a modernized and streamlined Older Americans Act and one that maintains some of the most important and successful programs the Federal Government provides for our senior citizens.

As an editorial in a newspaper in my home State of Ohio, the Cincinnati Post, on September 20, 1999, stated:

The Older Americans Act has been the closest thing on record to a national policy on aging.

That is a pretty strong statement, but it is true. It is true because the