

to meet to conduct a markup on Thursday, March 8, 2001, beginning at 10 a.m. The markup will take place in Dirksen Room 226.

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 8, 2001, at 4 p.m., to consider the omnibus funding resolution for committees of the Senate for the 107th Congress.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to receive the legislative presentations of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans, Blinded Veterans Association, the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart. The hearing will be held on Thursday, March 8, 2001, at 9:30 a.m., in room 345 of the Cannon House Office Building.

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

HONORING TWENTY-ONE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD KILLED IN CRASH OF NATIONAL GUARD AIRCRAFT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 47, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 47) honoring 21 members of the National Guard who were killed in the crash of a National Guard aircraft on March 3, 2001, in south-central Georgia.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 47) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

HONORING TWENTY-ONE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD KILLED IN CRASH OF NATIONAL GUARD AIRCRAFT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Armed Services

Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 22 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 22) honoring the 21 members of the National Guard who were killed in the crash of a National Guard aircraft on March 3, 2001, in south-central Georgia.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to this resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 22) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The text of S. Con. Res. 22 is located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2001

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 10 a.m. on Friday, March 9. I further ask unanimous consent that on Friday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then resume consideration of S. 420, the bankruptcy reform bill.

Let me say at this point I am serious about the desire for us to make some progress on the bankruptcy bill. There are amendments to be offered and debated during the pendency of the session tomorrow so that those matters can then be voted on next week. I do not believe that will happen, but I want to emphasize the opportunity is there.

I am sure at some point next Wednesday we are going to hear hollering and complaining about the fact that there is not enough time to consider amendments that need to be offered.

We are in session tomorrow. This is the business of the Senate, the business of the country. I hope Senators will take advantage of that opportunity on Friday and on Monday so that we can complete the work on this important legislation that has been considered repeatedly by the Senate. Nobody is surprised by what is in this bill.

What we are going to have next week is everybody is going to dump out their baskets on this bill. That is unfortunate, but we will clean it up in con-

ference and get this done because it is way overdue, and an overwhelming bipartisan majority of the Senate supports it.

I further ask unanimous consent that at 12 p.m., Senator LUGAR be recognized to speak for up to 30 minutes in morning business.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, all Senators should be aware that the Senate will convene on Friday on the bankruptcy bill. If amendments are available, they will be considered on Friday, but votes will be deferred over until Tuesday of next week. Amendments also can be offered or expect to be offered during the day on Monday. Under the previous order, votes ordered on Friday or Monday will occur on Tuesday at 11 a.m. and then there will be at least two votes at 2:45 p.m. after the weekly policy luncheons on Tuesday.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LOTT. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order following the remarks of Senators BIDEN and LIEBERMAN.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield the floor?

Mr. LOTT. I am happy to yield.

Mr. REID. I want to emphasize what our leader said. We have a lot of amendments pending. We have all day tomorrow, all day Monday. There is going to come a time Tuesday and Wednesday when Members will be asked, do you need all this time? how much time do you need? And I am alerting everybody to what Senator DASCHLE said earlier today: They can have all day tomorrow to talk as much as they want tomorrow, as much as they want Friday. Senator CONRAD said he would be happy to yield the floor to offer amendments. He will come at 10:15 or whenever we come in, in the morning.

The point is, anyone within the sound of my voice, we have 86 amendments. There will come a time next week when we have to dispose of the amendments. That is the agreement that has been tentatively reached by the two leaders. I hope people are not upset next week when there may be motions to table and other things done to dispose of some of the amendments.

Mr. LOTT. Senator REID, I appreciate you saying that. That is exactly what I was urging. There are over 100 amendments pending that have been suggested or listed by over 30 Senators. Some Senators may have other commitments tomorrow, may be in their States with legitimate and official business, but surely not all 30 Senators are gone. Friday would be a wonderful time to talk at great length on the great wisdom of any amendments that might be offered. I hope that happens. I thank you for urging Senators to do that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

IMPORTANT PROGRESS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the important progress that has been made in the difficult post-war political and economic transformation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Some critics of American policy seem inclined to seize on every shred of negative news as alleged arguments for pulling up stakes and disengaging from the Balkans.

I have never belonged to this "cut and run school," and, in fact, the good news I have to report illustrates two fundamental truths: first, that persistence pays; and second, that more than ever, we need to continue to be engaged on the ground in Bosnia.

Since the November 2000 elections—which, I might add, the international news media quickly, and incorrectly, dubbed a major setback for the Dayton Accords—several positive political and economic developments have occurred in Bosnia, at both the national and the entity level, that merit our close attention.

In fact, the situation has progressed to the point where Bosnia and Herzegovina now stands at a critical juncture. For the first time there appears to be a fundamental shift away from the ultra-nationalist parties that have until now dominated Bosnia's post-war political process.

As the Presiding Officer knows, immediately after the war ended, each of the main ethnic groups—the Bosniaks, or Muslims, the Croats, and the Serbs—rallied around ultra-nationalist leaders who had neither the capability nor the intention of bringing about a united Bosnia.

But now there has been a fundamental shift away from these ultra-nationalist parties and toward a government that is more moderate and inclusive and less nationalistic.

But the tide, Mr. President, has not yet definitively turned. Let me try to explain this fairly complex picture.

At the level of both the Muslim-Croat Federation and of the national government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the main agent of this remarkable shift has been a coalition of non-nationalist parties aptly known as the "Alliance for Change."

In the wake of the November elections, these parties found the political courage to put aside their disparate interests and agendas and push together to oust the hardline nationalists.

In early February, the Alliance scored its first major victory at the national level when it closed ranks to defeat the election of nationalist candidate Martin Raguz for Prime Minister.

In the process, in a truly remarkable breakthrough, the ultra-nationalist

Serb presidency member joined the Muslim presidency member from the nationalist Bosniak SDA party in backing a non-nationalist candidate for Prime Minister, Božidar Matić, who was put forward by the Alliance.

I am told that Ante Jelavić, the third presidency member who leads the hardline Bosnian Croat HDZ party, stormed out of the presidency session in a fury. Having met Mr. Jelavić in Bosnia several years ago, I am not surprised at his behavior.

Two weeks ago on February 22—three months after the elections—Matić and his team of ministers were confirmed as the first ever non-nationalist government in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Then, on February 28, came word of a second stunning success, this time at the Federation level. In another political first for Bosnia, two non-nationalist candidates nominated by the Alliance for Change, Karlo Filipović and Safet Halilović, were elected as President and Vice-President of the Federation.

Mr. President, these are momentous changes. These two gentlemen are genuine democrats who have bought into Dayton. I am confident that they and their allies will now push for full implementation, including adopting a new elections law, an effectively functioning Federation legislature, and honest economic reform.

In a promising harbinger of the new political order, Prime Minister Matić gave the nationalist parties a clear indication of his priorities when he told them: "I don't speak Serbian, Croatian, or Bosnian. I speak the language of competitive economic skills, because that's the only language that will help us survive."

That would be an ordinary statement for anybody to make in any other democracy but it is a breathtaking statement in Bosnia.

That, Mr. President, is the language of Bosnia's future.

Unfortunately, Mr. Jelavić and his ultra-nationalist cronies in the HDZ appear unwilling to accept their defeat and leave power gracefully. Last Saturday, at a self-appointed congress held in Mostar, the Bosnian Croat National Assembly announced its intention to form a separate Croat political entity in all but name and to establish temporary self-administration. This move, which would be a clear violation of the Dayton Peace Accords, has been roundly condemned by the international community.

In point of fact, the HDZ's actions reveal just how desperate Jelavić and his ilk have become. With the Alliance for Change poised to solidify its new political gains, Jelavić was forced to play the nationalist card once again by claiming that he alone is defending the interests of Bosnia's Croat community.

This assertion, however, is patently false, for Jelavić does not speak for all Bosnian Croats. People like Krešimir Zubak, the newly appointed national Minister of Refugee and Human Rights,

and Jadranko Prlić, the former foreign minister and currently Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, are both Croat moderates who are committed to Dayton's full implementation.

Zubak called the Croat People's Assembly "an illegitimate institution" that "cannot take lawful decisions."

Yesterday, in response to this illegal behavior, High Representative Wolfgang Petritsch, an experienced Austrian diplomat, removed Jelavić from his post as Croat Member of Bosnia's collective presidency. Put another way, he said, you are no longer president.

I met with Mr. Petritsch several weeks ago in Sarajevo, and I welcome his resolute action.

I emphasize, Mr. President, that this move by the High Representative was backed by the reformist Mesić/Račan Government of Croatia—which in itself speaks volumes about recent political progress in the Balkans. This is the new leadership in Croatia that came to power in the wake of Franjo Tjrdman, a man who was almost, in my view, as bad as Slobodan Milosevic. The new Croatian Government said it does not acknowledge or support Mr. Jelavić's attempt to set up a separate entity.

Positive change is afoot even in the Republika Srpska, where the ultra-nationalist SDS, a party with the dubious honor of having been founded by one of the worst war criminals, in my view—but whether you believe me or not, someone who has been indicted for alleged war crimes—Radovan Karadzic, won a clear plurality of votes in the November elections.

In what had to have been a delicate political dance, the non-nationalist Bosnian Serb Prime Minister, Mladen Ivanic, has succeeded in building a government in which the influence of the SDS has been formally neutralized, although some SDS-leaning individuals have been included in the Cabinet. I met with him for hours when I was recently in Sarajevo.

It took great courage for him to do what he did. After all, the party of Karadzic had won. And what was said at the time by the Muslims, as well as the Croats in attendance, was if, in fact, you do not exclude all those who are active members of the SDS, we will not cooperate, but if you do, we will form a government with you.

Incidentally, Mr. President, much of the credit for these success stories should go to our talented and hard-working Ambassador in Sarajevo, Tom Miller.

In addition, two other dedicated Americans—Ambassador Jacques Klein, the head of the U.N. Mission in Bosnia, and General Michael Dodson, the Commander of SFOR, have greatly improved the cooperation between their respective organizations, which had been sorely wanting for some time after Dayton.

An illustration of this fruitful cooperation is the fact that refugees are returning in record numbers to their