

when I learned of the vote relating to Mrs. JONES of Ohio's objection to the certified results of the Electoral College balloting in the State of Ohio and was unable to return to Washington, DC in time for today's vote. I would like the RECORD to reflect that had I been present I would have voted "nay."

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and therefore unable to cast a vote on rollcall No. 7. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on January 6, I was conducting oversight in Southeast Asia of tsunami disaster relief efforts and, therefore, missed one recorded vote.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on recorded vote No. 7.

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, because of illness, I was not present on the vote on agreeing to the objection on the Ohio electoral vote on January 6. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to vote on rollcall 7. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this measure.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall No. 7. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, January 6, 2005, I regrettably missed recorded vote 7. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I had to fly back to Wisconsin for a military funeral and missed rollcall vote No. 7.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will now notify the Senate of the action of the House, informing that body that the House is now ready to proceed in joint session with the further counting of the electoral vote for the President and Vice President.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate by a vote of 1 aye to 74 nays rejects the objection to the electoral votes cast in the State of Ohio for George W. Bush for President and RICHARD CHENEY for Vice President.

At 5:08 p.m. the Sergeant at Arms, Wilson Livingood, announced the Vice President and the Senate of the United States.

The Senate entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, headed by the Vice President and the Secretary of the Senate, the Members and officers of the House rising to receive them.

The Vice President took his seat as the Presiding Officer of the joint convention of the two Houses, the Speaker of the House occupying the chair on his left. Senators took seats to the right of the rostrum as prescribed by law.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The joint session of Congress to count the electoral vote will resume. The tellers will take their chairs.

The two Houses retired to consider separately and decide upon the vote of the State of Ohio, to which objection has been filed.

The Secretary of the Senate will report the action of the Senate.

The Secretary of the Senate read the order of the Senate, as follows:

*Ordered*, That the Senate by a vote of 1 aye to 74 nays rejects the objection to the electoral votes cast in the State of Ohio for George W. Bush for President and Richard Cheney for Vice President.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Clerk of the House will report the action of the House.

The Clerk of the House read the order of the House, as follows:

*Ordered*, That the House of Representatives rejects the objection to the electoral vote of the State of Ohio.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Pursuant to the law, chapter 1 of title 3, United States Code, because the two Houses have not sustained the objection, the original certificate submitted by the State of Ohio will be counted as provided therein.

The tellers will now record and announce the vote of the State of Oklahoma for President and Vice President in accordance with the action of the two Houses.

Senator JOHNSON. Mr. President, the certificate of the electoral vote of the State of Oklahoma seems to be regular in form and authentic, and it appears therefrom that George W. Bush of the State of Texas received 7 votes for President, and DICK CHENEY of the State of Wyoming received 7 votes for Vice President.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. President, the certificate of the electoral vote of the State of Oregon seems to be regular in form and authentic, and it appears therefrom that JOHN F. KERRY of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts received 7 votes for President, and John Edwards of the State of North Carolina received 7 votes for Vice President.

Senator LOTT. Mr. President, the certificate of the electoral vote of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania seems to be regular in form and authentic, and it appears therefrom that JOHN F. KERRY of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts received 21 votes for President, and John Edwards of the State of North Carolina received 21 votes for Vice President.

Mr. NEY. Mr. President, the certificate of the electoral vote of the State of Rhode Island seems to be regular in form and authentic, and it appears therefrom that JOHN F. KERRY of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts received 4 votes for President, and John Edwards of the State of North Carolina received 4 votes for Vice President.

Senator LOTT. Mr. President, the certificate of the electoral vote of the State of South Carolina seems to be regular in form and authentic, and it appears therefrom that George W. Bush of the State of Texas received 8 votes for President, and DICK CHENEY of the State of Wyoming received 8 votes for Vice President.

Senator JOHNSON. Mr. President, the certificate of the electoral vote of the State of South Dakota seems to be regular in form and authentic, and it appears therefrom that George W. Bush of the State of Texas received 3 votes for President, and DICK CHENEY of the

State of Wyoming received 3 votes for Vice President.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. President, the certificate of the electoral vote of the State of Tennessee seems to be regular in form and authentic, and it appears therefrom that George W. Bush of the State of Texas received 11 votes for President, and DICK CHENEY of the State of Wyoming received 11 votes for Vice President.

Senator LOTT. Mr. President, the certificate of the electoral vote of the State of Texas seems to be quite proud in reflecting the regular form and authenticity, and it therefore appears that George W. Bush of that great State of Texas received 34 votes for President, and DICK CHENEY of the State of Wyoming received 34 votes for Vice President.

Mr. NEY. Mr. President, the certificate of the electoral vote of the State of Utah seems to be regular in form and authentic, and it appears therefrom that George W. Bush of the State of Texas received 5 votes for President, and DICK CHENEY of the State of Wyoming received 5 votes for Vice President.

Senator JOHNSON. Mr. President, the certificate of the electoral vote of the State of Vermont seems to be regular in form and authentic, and it appears therefrom that JOHN F. KERRY of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts received 3 votes for President and John Edwards of the State of North Carolina received 3 votes for Vice President.

□ 1715

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. President, the certificate of the electoral vote of the Commonwealth of Virginia seems to be regular in form and authentic, and it appears therefrom that George W. Bush of the State of Texas received 13 votes for President and DICK CHENEY of the State of Wyoming received 13 votes for Vice President.

Senator LOTT. Mr. President, the certificate of the electoral vote of the State of Washington seems to be regular in form and authentic, and it appears therefrom that JOHN F. KERRY of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts received 11 votes for President and John Edwards of the State of North Carolina received 11 votes for Vice President.

Mr. NEY. Mr. President, the certificate of the electoral vote of the State of West Virginia seems to be regular in form and authentic, and it appears therefrom that George W. Bush of the State of Texas received 5 votes for President and DICK CHENEY of the State of Wyoming received 5 votes for Vice President.

Senator JOHNSON. Mr. President, the certificate of the electoral vote of the State of Wisconsin seems to be regular in form and authentic, and it appears therefrom that JOHN F. KERRY of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts received 10 votes for President and John Edwards from the State of North Carolina received 10 votes for Vice President.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. President, you should be justifiably