

President pro tempore be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills and joint resolutions.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 114th Congress, Senators be allowed to leave at the desk with the Journal clerk the names of two staff members who will be granted the privilege of the floor during the consideration of the specific matter noted, and that the Sergeant-at-Arms be instructed to rotate staff members as space allows.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 114th Congress, it be in order to refer treaties and nominations on the day when they are received from the President, even when the Senate has no executive session that day.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 114th Congress, Senators may be allowed to bring to the desk bills, joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions and simple resolutions, for referral to appropriate committees.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### WELCOMING MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND WISHING SENATOR REID A SPEEDY RECOVERY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today is an important day for our country. Many Senators took the oath this afternoon—13 for the first time—and the new Republican majority accepted its new responsibility. We recognize the enormity of the task before us. We know a lot of hard work awaits. We know many important opportunities await as well.

I am really optimistic about what we can accomplish. I will have much more to say about that tomorrow. For now, I just want to welcome back all of our returning Members. I want to congratulate the many new ones, and I want to say a word about our colleague from Nevada.

Senator REID is a former boxer. He is tough. I know he will be back in fighting form soon enough. We all wish him a speedy recovery and I wish him the very best.

To all of you, enjoy the ceremonies today. Tomorrow is back to work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting minority leader.

#### THE NEW CONGRESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for those kind words. I am happy to report the Democratic leader of the Senate, Senator REID, is making a speedy recovery from his New Year's run-in with some exercise equipment. His face and ribs are still sore. He is eager to get back to work. We met with him this morning, and we can expect him back in the Senate very soon.

In the meantime, it is a privilege on behalf of the Democratic Caucus to

welcome our old colleagues back to work and welcome our new colleagues and their families to the U.S. Senate. I also want to wish Leader McCONNELL, as he takes up the new duties of the majority leader, the very best. Senator Dirksen was a Senator from my home State of Illinois who served as a Republican leader of the Senate from 1959 to 1969. He famously said, "I am a man of fixed and unbending principles, the first of which is to be flexible at all times."

That may sound comical, even contradictory. But Senator Dirksen's ability on flexible tactics and firmness on principles helped produce historic legislation such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, one of the greatest achievements in our Nation's history. I am sure we all will remember that with fondness and pride.

The American people need us to work together to solve problems and create opportunities. For their sake, let us all try to remember that what we are about is honorable compromise. The Constitution of the United States and the Senate itself are the results of just such a compromise.

One other point. One hundred years ago this week, an American industrialist and entrepreneur stunned the world by announcing he would start paying his workers double the industry average and cut the hours. That man, of course, was Henry Ford. He committed to pay his workers a minimum wage.

As we begin this new Congress, let us dedicate ourselves to the working men and women across America, the taxpayers of this country, and the men and women which we so proudly serve. I hope that we will show flexibility and principle. We can't solve America's challenges with the same old thinking. We have to address the problems with mutual respect and with a positive attitude.

I look forward to, on this side of the aisle, working with Senator REID and my colleagues to achieve that end.

Congratulations to Leader McCONNELL.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Mr. McCONNELL. I thank my friend the acting minority leader. We are anxious to get to work here. In that regard, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to meet on January 7, tomorrow, for the purpose of hearing testimony on the Keystone Pipeline; that the meeting be chaired by Senator MURKOWSKI, with Senator CANTWELL as ranking member; that the following Senators not currently serving on the committee be considered Members of the committee for the purpose of this meeting: Senators DAINES, CASSIDY, GARDNER, CAPITO, HIRONO, KING, and WARREN; I further ask that the meeting be considered to comport

with all Senate rules relating to the conduct of committees and that customary and authorized expenses be permitted.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. Under the traditions and rules of the Senate, all of the Senate committees are organized in a resolution, which we anticipate will be offered tomorrow for the organization of the committee structure of the U.S. Senate.

I say to the majority leader, we will continue this conversation in a positive manner in an effort to come up with a mutually agreeable approach to consider this legislation and others, but for that reason I must object.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. McCONNELL. If I may, let me just say again, nobody's rights would have been in any way impaired by going forward a day earlier. We are going to pass the committee resolution tomorrow. We all know that one of the things the Senate is best at is not doing much. I hope we can work this out so we can get started. Everyone knows the first measure that is going to be up is going to come out of the energy committee. I would say to my friends on the minority side, it is open for amendment. Why don't we get started? Hopefully Senator MURKOWSKI and Senator CANTWELL can work through this and we can get going and do the people's business. We are anxious to get started.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

#### REMEMBERING SYLVIA GARCIA RICKARD

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to convey to my colleagues news of the tragic death of Sylvia Rickard—one of the Nation's top breast cancer advocates—a woman so full of life and joy, so deeply immersed in the science of her passion, that it is impossible to imagine this sad, sad occurrence.

Sylvia was truly an amazing person who touched many lives. I first met Sylvia when she visited my office so many years ago to educate me on the need for more breast cancer research, for better breast cancer screening, and for better patient navigation. Sylvia, herself a two-time survivor of breast cancer, and later of ocular melanoma, made sure that my staff and I, and indeed all of the Utah and Idaho delegations, regardless of party, were kept apprised of the latest developments in breast cancer research. She patiently walked us through the science behind the research—a science she made it her business to know in great detail.

Sylvia was such a good advocate because she had fought this dread disease, and won. Not once, but twice.