review of the review committee’s determination.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT
Existing law provides that the bill of complaint (in a proceeding brought by a farmer) shall be served upon a member of the review committee. The bill is silent as to who shall be served in a proceeding brought by the Secretary. The Committee amendment would clarify this situation by specifying that review proceedings instituted by the Secretary shall be “against the farmer as defendant”.

The amendment was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, with the permission of the distinguished Senator from Idaho (Mr. CHURCH), and while awaiting the arrival of another Senator, I ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding the unanimous-consent agreement, I may proceed for 6 or 7 minutes.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TAX LEGISLATION

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, conflicting reports, statements, and stories make it necessary to set the record straight on the matter of tax legislation. It will be recalled that last July, pursuant to the urging of the administration, the Senate extended the 10-percent surcharge on the income tax. The extension was for 6 months—that is, through the remainder of 1969—but not until June 30, 1970, as had been sought by the administration.

Frankly, as one Senator, I would have preferred not to see any extension of the surcharge except as part of a here-and-now tax reform and relief measure. Nevertheless, together with the other members of the majority policy committee I concurred in the scheduling of the 6-month extension because of certain conditions and understandings which occurred at the time.

In agreeing to a callup of the surtax, the majority policy committee insisted that tax reform and relief should not be left in a pigeonhole. It sought and received assurances that such a measure would be brought forth with dispatch for consideration by the Senate. In this connection, it was made clear that there would be reported to the Senate either the far-reaching bill then in the House, that bill as amended, or some other bill dealing, in bloc, with the more flagrant escape hatches which benefit a few in the present income tax law and providing some relief for millions of others.

May I say that the wage earners and other moderate and lower income groups are properly impatient for a more equitable distribution of the tax burden. They have a right to expect changes in the present income tax law after years of inertia in the face of the accumulating inequities—inequities which have placed on their shoulders an inordinate share of the cost of government.

Insofar as the majority leadership of the Senate is concerned there will be no
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[In support of prompt action on strong reasonable sent to the rules and relief action, one might well ask of the uncertainty that confronts tens of millions of the Nation's moderate and lower-income taxpayers who are still waiting for the long-promised general tax reform and tax relief.]

The fact is that the central problem which faces the Senate in this matter is not the repeal of the investment tax credit. The central problem has been and remains: When and in what context should the investment credit be repealed in order also to assure prompt consideration of a general tax reform and relief measure? In essence, the problem is the same that confronted the leadership in the case of the extension of the tax surcharge a few months ago. The problem is of how best to proceed in the light of the procedural realities of the Congress. To refresh memories on this point, let me quote a bit of the speech of Senator P. S. Davis, a member of the majority policy committee, who put it so well last July when he said on the Senate floor:

"The thing that disturbs me is not so much the 6 months as against the 12 months. As a matter of fact, I would be for the 12-month extension providing I would have assurance that we are going to have tax reform. There is no Member of the Senate who knows more about the parliamentary gimmick than does the Senator from Delaware. And he knows that if we dispose permanently of the surtax problem and then treat the tax reform independently we will have no chance to have tax reform."

In a similar vein, to dispose of the investment tax credit at this time, in my judgment, might well diminish the prospects of a meaningful general tax reform and tax relief during this Congress which would most benefit middle and lower-income taxpayers. That was also the judgment of the Committee last July. That is still my judgment and I have no indication whatsoever that it is not still the judgment of the policy committee.

For those who have concerns about the investment credit, I repeat that, as far as I am concerned, any repeal will be retroactive to April 18, 1969; that is what was understood at the time the tax surcharge was extended last July. That is still the case today and I cannot understand why there should be any doubts or uncertainties on that score. Indeed, if one wishes to pursue this business of uncertainty by putting it in another form, let us not be left with the illusion that this is the long-promised general tax reform and tax relief.

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Mr. HARRIS. Mr. President, I wish to comment on the Senator's statement. As a member of the Committee on Finance, I am very much in accord with what the majority leader has said. I commend him for his excellent leadership on the issue. I believe he has been headed in the right direction, and still is. I applaud him.

Mr. MANSFIELD. I thank the Senator. I wish to reiterate that the purpose in making these full remarks this morning was to set the record straight.