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Congressional Record S. 16535 - Program and Equal Rights - Women

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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Mr. President, I ask the distinguished majority leader if he would advise us of what decisions he has made with regard to further business this week and, if he is in a position to do so, with regard
to the further business from now until
adjournment and, perhaps he might
even give me some indication as to an
adjournment. I think this matter was discussed
at the meeting of the Democratic policy
committee, just concluded. I was in-
structed by that committee to discuss
this matter with the distinguished
minority leader as soon as possible.

While I should have done this in pri-
vate, I am glad that the distinguished
Senator from North Carolina, asking that this matter
be in session at this time. The
majority leader knows that we have no
agreed to some months ago. It was a
mistake on my part to schedule a 4-day
session will adjourn its business on Thurs­
day night, October 21, as was
agreed to some months ago.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, is cor-
rect.

The Senate will adjourn on Thursday,
November 15, at 1 o'clock, and the
Senator will adjourn its business on Thurs­
day next and will convene on the fol-
lowing Tuesday, October 26.

Mr. SCOTT. At noon?

Mr. MANSFIELD. Perhaps a little
earlier.

Beginning next week, the Senate may
anticipate Saturday sessions and/or
long evening sessions.

The purpose will be to expedite
as much of the business of the first session
as possible because it is our desire, the
Senate willing, that we strive to end
this session between the 15th of next
month and the 1st of December at the
latest.

It is my understanding that the House
Rules Committee has already laid down
the direction the new session will take and
which will be considered by that group after the 1st of October excepting appropriations
items, procedural matters and those of an
extraordinary nature, as, for exam-
ple, the President's proposal which will
come down today or tomorrow having to
do with phase II of the economic
program.

In the next 10 days or 2 weeks and
approximately in this order, it is pro-
posed that the Senate consider the for-
eign aid authorization, which should be
reported tomorrow or Thursday; con-
sumer legislation, including the war-
ranty-guaranty measure, the fish
inspection proposal, the product safety
proposal, and the auto inspection saving
measure, the water quality ex-
tension and the equal employment op-
portunity amendments.

Hopefully, all of these matters could be
removed from the consideration of the
economic tax package.

Commencing with the week of Novem-
ber 1, work could be started on these
economic tax proposals. That would
leave the phase II proposals, the voter
registration and narcotics measures, and
the two Supreme Court nominees for
consideration. The economic tax proposal
package along with all items falling into
the "if possible" category, such as the
Okinawa Treaty, which the joint leader-
ship intends to do its utmost to bring up
and pass before the first session ends,
the Consumer Protection Agency, and
the equal rights amendment.

I think I shall close the record, and make a
few comments about that matter. If I
cannot address the distinguished
Senator from North Carolina, I think it
is all right to say that I am in receipt of
a communication from the Senator from
North Carolina asking that this matter
not be taken up surreptitiously or too
expeditiously, but that opportunity be
given for hearings to be held in the Com-
mittee on the Judiciary; and if I get the
Senator's inference correctly, it would be
possible that something would be re-
ported from that committee around
the first of the year.

Mr. ERVIN. I do not believe I
would be as optimistic. I believe if it goes
over, it will be reported by the 1st of
February, and the other side will also
report it as definite as possible that it will be
reported the 1st of February so I can—
so to speak—get some of the ladies off
my neck?

Mr. MANSFIELD. I believe it is
as difficult as possible to make it easier for me.
So, I mean to do it as definite as possible that it will be
reported the 1st of February so I can—
so to speak—get some of the ladies off
my neck.

Mr. ERVIN. If the Senator will tell me
when we will recess in November I can
assure him that if we come back by the middle of January it could be reported after
then. What is needed is a meeting of the
Committee on the Judiciary to pass on
amendments in committee. I have no de-
so to postpone it but I want everyone
to understand the measure that is going
to be proposed and several fundamental
amendments I am going to offer.

I would be glad to get rid of the bur-
den because, with some support among
gentleman, it seems I am the only one
willing to say that I think the equal
rights amendment is an unequal
amendment.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, while
not agreeing with what the Senator said
at the conclusion of his remarks, I do
want to say I am delighted to have his
assurance that this measure will be re-
ported around the 1st of February at the
latest.

I want to state again for the record
in response to those ladies who have
written in to me and asking why I have
ever not called up this bill, that if this bill
were called up now, it would be subject
to interjection. Other business
would be considered, and this debate
could go on to the end of this session
blocking every major item that remains,
cluding the spending bills and the
President's economic proposals.

We have this assurance; all of us are
better off in this respect. The Equal
Rights Amendment, which I support
without reservation, is not expected up at
that time, and the Senate then will be
allowed to work its will. I think this is a
good solution to a vexing question.

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, will the
Senator yield?

Mr. MANSFIELD. I yield.

Mr. BAYH. I have more than a passing
interest in this matter, as the Senator
from North Carolina knows.

Mr. MANSFIELD. I certainly do.

Mr. BAYH. Unfortunately, I was just
off the floor when the Senator spoke. I
am interested in finding out from the
distinguished Senator from Montana
(Mr. MANSFIELD) when he thinks the
Senate will be able to debate this propo-
sal.

This matter has been before the Sen-
ate and the Congress in one form or
another for 48 years. The present
amendment has been the subject of ex-
tended debate and the victim of tactics
designed to kill it in committee. For that
reason I am particularly eager to ensure
the promptest consideration by the Sen-
ate, with due regard of course, for the
Senate's other responsibilities.

In fact, as chairman of the subcom-
mittee on Constitutional Amendments
which has been considering the Equal
Rights Amendment, I hope we can act
before February 1. I have talked to the
Senator from North Carolina. After an
extended period earlier this year when
parliamentary procedure prevented a
vote on Senate Journal Resolution 8 in
subcommittee, Senator Stennis has agreed to permit the subcommittee to act on
the bill; such subcommittee and full com-
mittee action should not take 3 months.

Mr. MANSFIELD. The Senator is
being helpful in trying to explain the situa-
tion as it is. It is an impossibility—
as the Senator knows and as the Senate
knows—to take up this matter in this
session. No one would want to do it more
than I but we have to face realities. I
do not want to be faced with the claim
that I did not bring the bill before the
Senate. I have the assurance now that it
will be reported around January 1 and
the Senate will have a chance to work its
will at that time, which it would not at
this moment.

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, will the
Senator yield?

Mr. MANSFIELD. I yield.

Mr. BAYH. I want the Record to show
clearly that I am not by any stretch of
the imagination accusing the Senator of
delaying in this matter. I have some idea
of the pressures to which he has been
subjected. I regret that he has been sub-
jected to these pressures.

While Senate Joint Resolution 150 is
on the calendar, I intend to do all I can
to get committee action on this proposal,
and to get that action as soon as possible.
We will be holding a meeting of the Sub-
committee on Constitutional Amend-
ments as soon as we are sure we will get
a quorum.

Hopefully we can get the amendment
out of the subcommittee by December 1
and before the first of the year get it on
the Calendar. Then, of course, it would be
up to the leadership to decide when it is
acted upon. It is my hope that we do not
grow to be afraid of an occasional times
called a filibuster on this issue. I hope
every Member will be willing to stand
up and be counted.
I appreciate the leadership bringing this matter to our attention.

Mr. MANSFIELD. I appreciate the remarks of the Senator. May I point out that because of his initiative that matter—Senate Joint Resolution 150—was placed on the calendar on September 8 of this year. In other words, it has now been on the calendar more than 2 months because of the personal interest shown by the Senator from Indiana who just made his views known strongly, as usual, and his feelings on this amendment. I must say I agree with him wholeheartedly.