

1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

2 THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1991

3 U.S. Senate

4 Committee on Finance

5 Washington, D.C.

6 The meeting was convened, pursuant to notice, at 10:07
7 a.m. in room SD-215, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon.
8 Lloyd Bentsen (Chairman) presiding.

9 Also present: Senators Moynihan, Baucus, Pryor, Riegle,
10 Rockefeller, Daschle, Breaux, Packwood, Chafee and Symms.

11 Also present: Vanda McMurtry, Staff Director and Chief
12 Counsel; Edmund Mihalski, Chief of Staff, Minority; and Bob
13 Kyle, International Chief Trade Counsel.

14 (The press release announcing the meeting follows:)

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

*Please
return
to printers*

1 The Chairman. This meeting will come to order.

2 We have to have a quorum of 10 to report this out and we
3 will move to it as quickly as we can.

4 The first item on the agenda this morning is the question
5 of the committee's budget for the fiscal years 1991 and 1992.
6 Let me give you a little background and tell you where we are.

7 There is no question about the budgetary constraints this
8 year and the problems we have therein. But the budget fight
9 last year was an extremely difficult mental and physical
10 burden for this committee and particularly for its staff.

11 We are number seven in the way of budgets, the Finance
12 Committee is, as compared to the other 13 committees that we
13 have in the United States Senate.

14 What we are asking for is approximately \$600,000 more a
15 year. We will still be number seven but we will narrow the
16 gap for the one just above us. Now that isn't the worst part
17 of it that we run into, is when we get into conference. We
18 are outmanned and we are outgunned with sheer numbers of
19 personnel. I watched the situation last year in the way we
20 were going until, I got off easy one night. I remember I got
21 off at 4:00 o'clock in the morning, but I remember some of the
22 others on Medicaid that went until 8:00 in the morning. I
23 watched one of our staffers--and others--but one of our
24 staffers there three days and nights sleeping two or three
25 hours on a couch, and what is probably the biggest problem for

1 some people is she was wearing the same dress for three or
2 four days and nights and that had to upset her I suppose.

3 Senator Moynihan. It was a black dress.

4 The Chairman. It was a black dress. That's right. It
5 was appropriate. But I know what she went through and I know
6 what a number of the others did, where they would sit down on
7 our side and have three staffers and the other side, they have
8 12. And they would send eight of them to go get eight hours
9 of sleep and then come back and take us on again.

10 So what we have asked is that we be able to supplement
11 the staff.

12 Last year, almost 80 percent of the savings in the budget
13 in that four months of fighting over priorities, almost 80
14 percent of it was done by this committee. Over half of the
15 expenditures in the budget come out of this committee. Almost
16 all the revenues are collected by this committee.

17 As we look at that last budget fight, we are going to see
18 some of those things again this year as we look at what is
19 happening in the Persian Gulf, what we are seeing in the
20 Savings and Loan. Even though those are off-budget items,
21 they cannot help but spill over and affect us. So those are
22 the concerns that we are sharing.

23 I have discussed this with some of the members of the
24 Rules Committee, some of the leadership and I think we have
25 had a sympathetic year. We don't have any commitments,

1 obviously. But as you look at this budget--and you have it
2 before you--I would hope that you would keep those things in
3 mind as we ask for this kind of assistance.

4 Mr. McMurtry, are you going to handle that?

5 Mr. McMurtry. Yes, sir.

6 The Chairman. Would you like to comment on it?

7 Mr. McMurtry. I have no comment on it, Mr. Chairman,
8 except to say that --

9 The Chairman. Give us the numbers. We have them here,
10 but would you read off the numbers?

11 Mr. McMurtry. Yes, sir.

12 The Chairman. And I would ask my colleague, Senator
13 Packwood, for any comments that he has because he has been
14 through this.

15 Senator Packwood. Well, I think the Chairman and I are
16 probably the only ones that can remember as we came onto this
17 committee at the same time. When we came, Tom Vail was the
18 staffer for both the Majority and the Minority, and I think he
19 had a secretary and maybe one professional, but that was
20 about it. And the history of why we are where we are is that
21 when Harry Byrd was chairman of this committee he was very
22 penurious and did not want staff and didn't think we should
23 have staff, and there were other chairman who were much more
24 aggressive about staff, and they got it and Senator Byrd
25 never asked. And then when we got to about 72, 73, 74, or 75,

1 everything sort of became frozen in place. And if you were
2 in eighth place then you stayed in eighth place and it didn't
3 matter if your workload changed. And Lord knows, if for no
4 other reason than health the load on this committee has grown
5 immensely over the last 15 or 20 years, and yet we have sort
6 of been frozen in time and to the Rules Committee's credit.
7 I think they are going to be more receptive to us this time,
8 but they have hesitated to get back into the battle of
9 attempting to weigh the relative merits of the different
10 committees. It is just easier to give everybody a 5 percent
11 increase.

12 So what the chairman says is absolutely right. And the
13 load coming up again on Trade, coming up again on Mexico, if
14 we do an extension on fast track, coming up again on Health,
15 every year I think. And then although from time to time I
16 have said this year I am not sure we will do too much in
17 taxes. Even when we do little on taxes it is more than many
18 committees do on everything.

19 So I frankly think you have been very cautious and
20 conservative, Mr. Chairman, in this request.

21 The Chairman. Thank you.

22 Senator Riegle. Mr. Chairman.

23 The Chairman. Senator Riegle.

24 Senator Riegle. Might I just make a comment? I think the
25 reference to the history that Senator Packwood has also made

1 back to the prior chairman, Mr. Byrd, years ago, we have an
2 equivalent situation in the Banking Committee, whereas for
3 years Senator Proxmire, of course, was the chairman, and the
4 approach was virtually no staff. That's fine if everything
5 works out fine, but if you have a lot of problems develop you
6 can find yourself in a very difficult situation dealing with
7 it.

8 I just would indicate that we are going to be in the same
9 situation there because we have a host of unique situations.
10 But I say that because I think the problem here, which is
11 real, and which needs to be corrected, and which I strongly
12 support, is not unique to this committee. There are other
13 committees faced with aspects of this economic and financial
14 difficulty that we are struggling with in the country that
15 find themselves in a roughly equivalent situation.

16 I just am interested in knowing whether Marina has
17 relatives that are as good as she is that we can hire because,
18 I mean, she is equal to the whole House staff by herself day
19 or night.

20 (Laughter)

21 Senator Riegle. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22 The Chairman. Thank you very much.

23 Are there further comments?

24 Senator Baucus. Mr. Chairman.

25 The Chairman. Senator Baucus.

1 Senator Baucus. I know what you say is true at
2 conference. And I as head of the Senate Conferees on the
3 Clean Air Act, I could just tell you that each subcommittee
4 had more staff than the entire Environment and Public Works
5 Committee. And I know you face the same thing in Finance in
6 dealing with the Ways and Means on issues under this
7 jurisdiction, but I can just tell you that it is amazing how
8 this generally applies when we go to conference in other
9 committees. And I agree with Senator Packwood. I think the
10 request is very modest, given the realities of the situation.

11 The Chairman. Thank you.

12 Senator Moynihan. Mr. Chairman.

13 The Chairman. Senator Moynihan.

14 Senator Moynihan. Just for the record, we will have one
15 small concurring view. It might be a better thing for the
16 Congress altogether if we propose that the House reduce their
17 staff.

18 (Laughter)

19 The Chairman. Thank you very much.

20 If there are no further comments on it then can I get a
21 motion for approval of this?

22 Senator Moynihan. I so move.

23 Senator Packwood. So moved.

24 The Chairman. All right.

25 All in favor of that motion make it known by saying aye.

1 (Chorus of ayes.)

2 The Chairman. Opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 The Chairman. The motion is carried.

5 The next thing we have on the agenda is the appointment
6 of congressional advisors on trade policy and negotiations.
7 Are you handling that, Mr. Kyle?

8 Mr. Kyle. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

9 The Chairman. All right. If you would comment on it,
10 please.

11 Mr. Kyle. Mr. Chairman, the 1988 Trade Act requires that
12 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate name five committees
13 from the Senate Finance Committee as official advisors on
14 trade on the recommendation of the chairman of the Committee
15 on Finance. And the action this morning is to approved your
16 recommendation of those five advisors. The five advisors
17 can be no more than three from one party, and the five
18 advisors that you designated would be Senator Bentsen,
19 Senator Moynihan, Senator Baucus, Senator Packwood, and
20 Senator Dole. All other members of the committee would be
21 considered alternates in the case that the other advisors were
22 not there.

23 The position entitles members to serve as official
24 advisors to the U.S. Delegation for International Conferences
25 meetings and negotiating sessions.

1 The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Kyle.

2 May I have a motion on that?

3 Senator Packwood. So moved.

4 The Chairman. All in favor of the motion as stated make
5 it known by saying aye.

6 (Chorus of ayes.)

7 The Chairman. Opposed, a similar sign.

8 (No response.)

9 The Chairman. The motion is carried.

10 The next item on the agenda is is the appointment of
11 subcommittees. Is that correct?

12 Mr. McMurtry. Yes. That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

13 The Chairman. On that item, we have the organization of
14 the subcommittees. And I have proposed a list of the
15 subcommittees and the subcommittee memberships and that has
16 been circulated.

17 What we are talking about is the proposal makes only a few
18 changes in the current subcommittee structure. Now, we
19 propose to change the Subcommittee on International Debt to
20 the Subcommittee on Deficit, Debt Management and
21 International Debt. And that would be chaired by Senator
22 Bradley.

23 Also, the Subcommittee on Taxation and Debt Management
24 becomes simply the Subcommittee on Taxation. And Senator
25 Boren would be the new chairman.

1 The chairmen for the other subcommittees would be Social
2 Security and Family Policy, Senator Moynihan; International
3 Trade, Senator Baucus; Energy and Agricultural Taxation,
4 Senator Daschle; Private Retirement Plans and Oversight of
5 the IRS, Senator Pryor; Health for Families and the
6 Uninsured, Senator Riegle; Medicare and Long-Term Care,
7 Senator Rockefeller.

8 May I have a motion for the approval of these
9 subcommittees?

10 Senator Packwood. So moved, Mr. Chairman.

11 The Chairman. All in favor of the motion as stated make
12 it known by saying aye.

13 (Chorus of ayes.)

14 The Chairman. Opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 The Chairman. The motion is carried.

17 We have not had an update on the committee's history since
18 1981. And I would urge that we have a new printing of the
19 new edition of the Finance Committee's history. And the
20 supplies of the 1981 print have been long exhausted. And what
21 it does, it gives us information or material on the origin of
22 the committee, the evolution of its jurisdiction in its role
23 in past Congresses. And I would recommend that we update the
24 committee's history.

25 Senator Packwood. So moved.

1 The Chairman. All in favor of that make it known by
2 saying aye.

3 (Chorus of ayes.)

4 The Chairman. Opposed, a similar sign.

5 (No response.)

6 The Chairman. The motion is carried. And I am sure that
7 the update will be more modest than some that I have seen
8 recently.

9 (Laughter.)

10 The Chairman. Are there other things to be brought before
11 the committee at this time?

12 Mr. McMurtry. No, sir. I believe that is the entire
13 agenda.

14 The Chairman. Thank you very much.

15 We have a quorum with Senator Symms.

16 Mr. McMurtry. Yes, sir. A quorum of 11 was present.

17 The Chairman. Fine. Thank you very much. We will stand
18 adjourned.

19 (Whereupon, at 10:20 a.m., the meeting was concluded.)

20

21

22

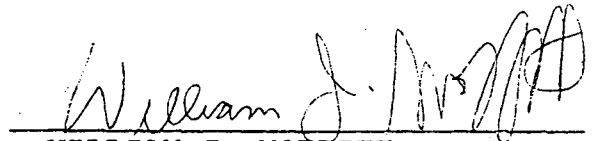
23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing proceedings of an Executive Committee Meeting of the Committee on Finance, held on January 31, 1991, were transcribed as herein appears and that this is the original transcript thereof.



WILLIAM J. MOFFITT
Official Court Reporter

My Commission expires April 14, 1994.