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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1988

U. S. Senate

Committee on Finance

Washington, D.C.

The meeting was convened, pursuant to notice, at 10:29 a.m. in Room SD-215, the Honorable Lloyd Bentsen (chairman) presiding.

Present: Senators Bentsen, Moynihan, Baucus, Boren, Bradley, Mitchell, Pryor, Riegle, Rockefeller, Daschle, Packwood, Chafee, Heinz and Armstrong.

Also present: Bill Wilkins, Staff Director and chief counsel.

ORIGINAL

1 The Chairman. The hearing will come to order.

2 We have this morning, of course, the Rules Committee
3 requiring each Committee to report an annual funding
4 resolution by January 1 of each calendar year, and that
5 resolution carries us through a budget year beginning on
6 March 1, 1988 and ending on February 28, 1989.

7 They have set a guideline for each Committee to follow
8 in reporting its annual funding resolution. The guideline
9 is that the 1988-1989 budget should be equal to last year's
10 except for the 2 percent cost of living adjustment to staff
11 salaries.

12 Now each of the members has received a markup material
13 bulletin which includes a proposed resolution and that
14 resolution meets the Rules Committee guidelines. It simply
15 takes last year's budget and increases it by \$45,660.00 to
16 cover the 2 percent cost of living increase. You may
17 recall that last year we had a supplemental appropriation as
18 well as an annual resolution and this is included in this.

19 We expect another busy year for this Committee. We have
20 major conferences to conclude on Trade and Catastrophic Health
21 Insurance. We have the issue of Work and Welfare to address.
22 We have the U.S./Canadian trade agreement. We have the
23 Technical Corrections bill on taxes, and we will be
24 exploring other areas as far as the health and welfare of our
25 children. I think we have a very lean appropriation for the

1 work of this Committee.

2 Now you have all received a ranking of the size of
3 appropriations of the other Committees. We can justify a
4 substantially large budget based on the comparisons in that
5 chart. However, I am asking the Committee to approve a
6 continuation budget set forth in ~~the proposed legislation so~~
7 that we comply with what the Rules Committee has requested
8 of us.

9 The Rules Committee has also thought about working out a
10 comprehensive review of the workloads of the various
11 Committees to see if there shouldn't be a further adjustment
12 in the amount of appropriations for each one of them. Senator
13 Packwood and I will be participating in that and certainly
14 urging a more equitable balance of the funds to each
15 Committee.

16 Senator Packwood. That is a risk I would be willing to
17 run, Mr. Chairman, rather than just going on the basis of
18 last year. And I think we would come out all right.

19 The Chairman. Oh, I know we would. And I appreciate the
20 fact that the Committee members have been able to come by
21 and register their support in their proxies in support of
22 this measure.

23 Senator Packwood. Mr. Chairman, I move to report the
24 budget as presented to the Committee.

25 The Chairman. All in favor make it known by saying aye.

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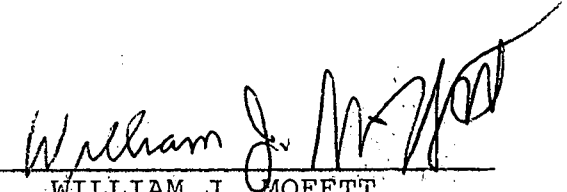
(Chorus of "ayes".)

The Chairman. Thank you very much.

(Whereupon, at 10:32 a.m., the meeting was concluded.

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 U.S. Senate Finance Committee, held on January 28, 1988, were transcribed as herein appears and that this is the original transcript thereof.


WILLIAM J. MOFFITT
Official Court Reporter

My Commission expires April 14, 1989.

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