

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 1092

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I call up substitute amendment, No. 1092, and ask that it be reported by number. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The legislative clerk read as follows: The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER], for Mrs. MURRAY and Ms. COLLINS, proposes an amendment numbered 1092.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask to dispense with further reading of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of September 7, 2023, under "Text of Amendments.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

AMENDMENT NO. 1205 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1092

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I call up my amendment, No. 1205, and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY] proposes an amendment numbered 1205 to amendment No. 1092.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end of division C, add the following:
SEC. 422. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 day after the date of enactment of this Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH AMENDMENT NO. 1207

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to commit H.R. 4366 to the Appropriations Committee, with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] moves to commit the bill H.R. 4366 to the Appropriations Committee with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered No. 1207.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To change the effective date)

At the end of division C, add the following:

SEC. 422. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 8 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask to dispense with further reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 4366

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the substitute amendment No. 1092 be considered an Appropriations Committee amendment for purposes of rule XVI, with no other rule XVI points of order waived by this agreement; that H.R. 4366, H.R. 4368, as reported in the House of Representatives on June 27, 2023, and H.R. 4820, as reported in the House of Representatives on July 24, 2023, serve as the basis for defense of germaneness under rule XVI for any floor amendments and that it be in order for floor amendments to amend the substitute in more than one place; further, that it be in order for the following amendments to be made pending and that, at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate vote on the following amendments to the Murray-Collins substitute amendment No. 1092, with 60 affirmative votes required for adoption and with no further amendments or motions in order to the amendments: Paul No. 1157, Vance No. 1125, Ernst No. 1123, Blackburn No. 1155, Lee No. 1121, Stabenow No. 1115, Peters-Cornyn No. 1122, Rosen No. 1117, Padilla No. 1139, and Schatz No. 1120.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am both surprised and disappointed that the Senator from Wisconsin is objecting to this unanimous consent agreement. The Senator from Wisconsin has repeatedly said—and I agree with him—that we should not end up with an omnibus bill—a 4,000-page bill—at the end of the year, with little consideration and having been largely drafted by a small group of people.

So why is the Senator from Wisconsin objecting to proceeding to three appropriations bills that were reported unanimously—unanimously, each one of them—by the Senate Appropriations Committee after a great deal of work? Furthermore, the Senator is objecting to Republican amendments being offered to this package—amendments by Senator PAUL, Senator VANCE, Senator ERNST, Senator BLACKBURN, Senator LEE—and that is just the first tranche of amendments.

Negotiations are ongoing, and there will be additional amendments; but if we cannot proceed to consider this bill and the other two appropriations bills unanimously reported by the Senate committee, then those amendments offered by some of our Members cannot be considered.

Is the Senator from Wisconsin opposed to the amendments that are offered by Senators PAUL, VANCE, ERNST, BLACKBURN, and LEE? Because, by objecting, he is preventing them from being considered by the full Senate.

We have worked very hard to clear amendments for consideration by this body, but if we can't even get passed the procedural amendments that allow us to bring the Transportation and Housing appropriations bill and the Agriculture appropriations bill to add to the MILCON-VA bill, then the Senate is broken once again.

Senator MURRAY and I, along with all the members of the Appropriations Committee, have worked so hard to achieve bipartisan consensus. We held nearly 50 hearings and briefings, asking tough questions, reviewing the President's budget request, evaluating the numbers in the budget. And we worked hard to develop, draft, and approve all 12 of the appropriations bills for the first time in 5 years.

How can a Member stand up and object and, at the same time, say: Oh, I don't want an omnibus bill. Well, that is what we are heading for.

We lost last week. I wish that the Democratic leader had brought this to the floor last week. We are now losing this week, and needlessly so.

There has been a great openness by my Democratic colleagues to consider Republican amendments. We just asked unanimous consent for the first five to be considered. Yet that is objected to.

Members cannot have it both ways. They cannot block floor consideration of appropriations bills that were unanimously reported by the committee and yet maintain that they don't want an omnibus bill. It is one or the other, or a government shutdown—even worse.

So I would ask my colleague from Wisconsin to think through this and think about the fact that he is blocking Republican amendments from getting a vote on the Senate floor. He is setting us up for either an omnibus bill or a government shutdown, and none of those outcomes serve the American people well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, let's be clear. To all of my colleagues who told me and Senator COLLINS and the American people that we have to get back to regular order, that is exactly what we are working to do here. We have been working in good faith to set up amendment votes and to get the ball rolling on this bill. Now there are a few colleagues on the other side of the aisle who are dismissing all of this out of hand, any kind of reasonable agreement to move this process forward, and blocking all of the agreements we put together to move forward.

Listen to this. If we all want regular order, a key part of this is allowing Senators to come down, have amendments voted on, and moving forward