
⁶⁹(...continued)

So I hope there is no suggestion here that there was not a conscientious effort to try to adhere as rigidly as possible to the Byrd rule, or adhere to it as rigidly as required by the rules of the Senate to the Byrd rule, because we worked very, very hard to do that.

I might say some of our House colleagues could not understand, and I do not blame them because there were a number of things that were pulled out of this budget reconciliation that had been voted on and passed by large majorities in both houses. But simply because they violated the Byrd rule, we had to go to the chairmen of the appropriate House committees and tell them they had to come out. They simply did not understand it. I think it made them perhaps have a little less high esteem for some of us here in the Senate, and we had to go to them and request they do it. In the final analysis, their leadership had to demand that some of these provisions subject to the Byrd rule come out.

So I think we have all worked very hard and in good faith on both sides of the aisle really to try to be true to the Byrd rule.

139 CONG. REC. S10,662 (daily ed. Aug. 6, 1993). For press accounts of the process, see Mary Jacoby, *Senate Parliamentarian Purges Budget Bill of Measures that Could Violate Byrd Rule*, ROLL CALL, Aug. 5, 1993, at 9; Richard E. Cohen, *Running Up Against the "Byrd Rule,"* 25 NAT'L J. 2151 (1993).

In the wake of that experience, the Chairman of the House Budget Committee criticized the Rule, arguing that it impedes legislation necessary to reduce the deficit. Chairman Sabo has introduced legislation to repeal the Rule. See Mary Jacoby, *Sabo Bill Would Kill Byrd Rule for Good*, ROLL CALL, July 25, 1994, at 12.

Omnibus Point of Order Followed by Editing in Conference

In the 1995 reconciliation bill, Senator Exon raised an omnibus point of order during floor consideration of the bill.

In reaction to the raising of that point of order, Republican conferees on the reconciliation bill set about purging Byrd Rule violations, much as the Democrats had done in 1993. See, e.g., Christopher Georges, *Byrd Procedural Rule Is Threatening to Derail Substantial Portions of the Republican Agenda*, WALL ST. J., Nov. 8, 1995, at A22. That process spawned the terminology described in the "Reliable Source" column in the *Washington Post* as follows:

Byrds of a Feather . . .

Today, class, as the House and Senate struggle to reconcile their budgets, let's learn about the Byrd Rule.

Zany Republican House Budget Committee staffers — anticipating that Senate Dems will skirt the rule that bars anything but taxing, spending and savings measures from reconciliation bills — have penned a cheeky glossary to boost morale and keep Dems on the defensive about a law written, named after and adroitly used by Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.) when Dems ruled the Capitol Hill roost.

Clearly the last thing the GOP wants during debate on the 2,000-page budget reconciliation bill (which may not pass till Christmas) is a Dem drive to save the Commerce Department or slow welfare overhaul. Thus the phrases: Big Byrd (an obvious rule violation), Byrd Brain (an expert in all rule nuances), Dodo Byrd (a gross rule misinterpretation) and Byrd Droppings

(continued...)