

Candidates would be entitled to a recount without charge to them if the margin were less than 2 percent of the total vote or less than 100 votes.

Candidates or groups of candidates would be allowed to obtain authorized credentials to witness the voting and vote count, with full opportunity to challenge potential fraud and mistakes.

VI. REFERENDA AND ADVISORY ELECTIONS

The Board of Elections would be specifically authorized to hold referenda and advisory elections as part of any regular election.

VII. DATES OF ELECTIONS

School Board elections would be held in even numbered years as part of presidential and delegate elections. Terms of present Board members would, accordingly, be extended one year.

S. 832—INTRODUCTION OF A BILL RELATING TO EMERGENCY LABOR DISPUTES

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I introduce for appropriate reference a bill to provide more effective means for protecting the public interest in those labor disputes which are subject to the Railway Labor Act. This bill will provide the Congress with an additional approach to consider with respect to the problem of emergency labor disputes, along with those alternative approaches which have recently been offered by Senator GRIFFIN on behalf of the administration and by Senator JAVITS.

The bill I introduce today is intended in particular to restore to the railroad industry a measure of free collective bargaining and to provide a means whereby labor-management confrontations in this industry may be reduced to less drastic dimensions.

As we have seen all too often in recent years there has been an unfortunate tendency for labor disputes in the railroad industry to become nationwide confrontations, threatening a shutdown of the entire rail network at one time. In the ensuing crises Congress has all too often been called upon to devise some means for prohibiting a strike, a result that I believe all of my colleagues will agree is most unsatisfactory.

A basic element in this situation has been a series of court decisions which have ruled that once bargaining for new contracts has been commenced on a nationwide basis it thereafter constitutes a violation of the Railway Labor Act for a union to strike against individual railroads, even though the union's contracts are with the individual railroads. Injunctions issued by the courts on the basis of such rulings have forced the railroad unions to choose between striking all railroads or not striking at all. And since as a final recourse Congress has regularly intervened to prohibit nationwide strikes, the practical fact is that railroad workers unlike all other workers in private employment are essentially deprived of any real right to strike.

The bill I now introduce is intended to meet this problem by amending the Railway Labor Act to make clear that a union may strike less than all of the railroads so long as it does not strike more than three carriers in any one of the eastern, western, or southeastern re-

gions, with certain additional restrictions on the amount of service that may be struck in any one such region. With non-striking carriers being precluded from initiating a lockout, any strike in the railroad industry could be kept limited in scope and not inevitably expanded to nationwide proportions. Thus some degree of the free collective bargaining pressure normally found in other industries would be restored in this industry.

Even on those carriers that are struck the bill provides for safeguarding the public interest by giving authority to the Secretary of Transportation, after consulting with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Labor, to direct any such carrier and striking unions to provide services which are essential to the national health or safety. Such services could include, but are not limited to, transportation of defense materials, coal for generation of electricity, and the continued operation of passenger trains including commuter service.

I believe that this bill which has the backing of the AFL-CIO and its member unions, including the railroad unions, could provide a reasonable basis for reducing the crisis proportions of many of the labor-management impasses we have seen in the railroad industry. It represents an approach which I believe is well worth considering along with other approaches which have so far been offered. I also wish to invite other Senators to submit any such proposals that they may have and, as chairman of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare and of the Labor Subcommittee, announce that I expect to begin hearings sometime in March to consider in depth all such proposals.

The suggestion has been made in some quarters that permanent legislation to deal with emergency disputes should be acted on quickly so that it will be available in the event there is a strike on March 1 in the current rail dispute.

However, as the Secretary of Labor has recently pointed out, this cannot possibly be done. It is wholly unrealistic to expect that we can permanently resolve in such a short time a problem which for so many years has defied all attempts to find a solution that would be supported by a reasonable consensus of informed opinion.

I am pleased to note that the carriers have now arrived at tentative settlements with three of the unions in the present dispute and I am most hopeful that voluntary settlement with the fourth union will be reached as well. The prospects of congressional willingness to intervene, or the results to be anticipated if it does intervene, are so uncertain that no party to the current dispute should assume that it can afford not to seek out every possible basis for voluntary settlement.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill will be received and appropriately referred.

The bill (S. 832) to amend the Railway Labor Act to avoid interruptions of railroad transportation that threaten national safety and health by reason of labor disputes and for other purposes introduced by Mr. WILLIAMS (for himself

and Mr. KENNEDY), was received, read twice by its title and referred to the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS OF BILLS

S. 509

At the request of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. MONDALE), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. MCINTYRE), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. HARRIS), and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CASE) were added as cosponsors of S. 509, the International Opium Control Act.

S. 576

At the request of the Senator from Texas (Mr. TOWER), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. DOMINICK), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. PERCY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. DOLE), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. EASTLAND), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. YOUNG), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. PROUTY), and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. HANSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 576, to provide tax incentives to encourage physicians to practice medicine in physician shortage areas.

S. 637

At the request of the Senator from Texas (Mr. TOWER), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. DOLE), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. EASTLAND), and the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) were added as cosponsors of S. 637, to de-regulate the price of natural gas.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS OF JOINT RESOLUTIONS

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 5

At the request of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROOKE), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. HARRIS), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. HANSEN), and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. MILLER) were added as cosponsors of Senate Joint Resolution 5, designating January 15 of each year as "Martin Luther King Day."

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 32

At the request of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. BAKER), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. ALLEN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. BYRD), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. BELLMON), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. CURTIS), the Senator from Utah (Mr. MOSS), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. PASTORE), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. DOLE), the Senator from Montana (Mr. MANSFIELD) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. STENNIS) were added as cosponsors of Senate Joint Resolution 32, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States with respect to the offering of prayer in public buildings.

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