

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 735), to prevent and punish acts of terrorism, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by a majority of the conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of Apr. 15, 1996.)

Mr. SIMPSON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

IMMIGRATION CONTROL AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1996

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, I just reflect that Senator KENNEDY and I are ready to go forward with this measure. It is an issue that is very topical and must be addressed—the issue of illegal immigration, the issue of legal immigration. Both bills are here. One is at the desk and one is being processed.

I want to assure all that immigration reform is not a partisan issue. It never has been and it never will be. It cannot be. I just hope that before we go on with these maneuvers, we recognize that I do not think anyone, especially in an election year, would want to be known as the person that took this bill down and left it down. It is an issue that, as I say, is not going to resolve itself. It is a Federal issue, not a State issue. We either resolve it, or we will have proposition 187's in every State of the Union. From me, I have buried my dead many times before with regard to both legal and illegal immigration, and life will go on if you bury it one more time.

Thank you.

Mr. KENNEDY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I join with the Senator from Wyoming in believing that it is premature to draw this bill down. This issue is of enormous importance in terms of dealing with the borders of this country and the flow of illegal immigration. It is enormously important in terms of enhancing the various criminal statutes that would deal with struggling, and it is enormously important to make sure we are going to protect American jobs by refusing illegals the opportunities for employment. And as the Jordan Commission and the Hesburgh Commission pointed out, jobs are the issues which attract the illegals. This particular measure deals with those particular proposals.

We had 6 days of markup on this in committee. As the Senator from Wyoming pointed out, there was significant

participation by Republicans and Democrats. It was devoid of partisanship in the consideration of various amendments. Last evening, the Senator from Wyoming offered three important amendments, which we were about to accept—one to make it a deportable offense to falsely claim to be a citizen while applying for jobs or welfare benefits. That is important. That can make a difference in terms of protecting the American taxpayer and the American worker. There is an amendment to keep track of the foreign students, to make sure they stay in school and not work illegally. We do not have the information of what is happening to many of the students, whether or not they circumvent the current laws and melt on into the population and use what is a legitimate cause to come here, to subvert the efforts to try and deal with illegal immigration. The third proposal is where you have students that come here to go to a private university and end up, at the public taxpayers' expense, allegedly going to public education at the burden of the taxpayers. These are significant and important amendments. We debated and discussed those last evening. We are prepared to act on them.

So there are probably eight or nine extremely important and controversial items that I was prepared to work out a time agreement on and urge colleagues to do so. And there were the other two items, which as Senator DORGAN and I will speak to briefly, about the minimum wage.

I would have been glad to urge the minority leader to agree to an hour or half hour, if that was going to be the cost of getting a vote on the issue of the minimum wage. We have been unable to get consideration of that measure now for over a year. And we have seen 56 Members of the Senate—bipartisan—who have indicated they want to address that issue. We are still denied an opportunity to consider a bill on its own merits with a relatively short period of time, since this is an issue that is understood by the Members.

Every day that goes on where we deny the opportunity for an increase in the minimum wage makes it clearer and clearer that there are those in this body, the U.S. Senate, that refuse to recognize that the work is important of the men and women in this country that work 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year and are entitled to a livable wage. That issue is not going to go away. We are going to keep revisiting that, as the minority leader pointed out, over the objections and opposition and stress to those opposed to that, until we are at least able to deal with it in a way in which that particular issue is dealt with with a sense of dignity because of the importance that has to many of our fellow citizens.

So I am disappointed that we are not able to move ahead. We are prepared to move along. I think many of those amendments that have been published here could be disposed of with broad bi-

partisan support. Probably, a dozen need our full attention. We were quite prepared—I know the leader on our side had instructed us to make every effort to move the program forward. That was the sense of the Democratic members of the Judiciary Committee. So, Mr. President, I am distressed by that. Also, as a matter of information on the terrorism bill, they did strike provisions that were in the previous law that permits the Internet to publish information about how to make bombs, and then a measure that was worked out by Senator FEINSTEIN, and also Senator BIDEN, that ensured that we were going to deal with that particular item. It was a matter that I brought to the floor. Someone had sent it to me over the Internet itself, and it provided in detail about how to make bombs. Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator BIDEN provided leadership to deal with that on the Internet. And now, as I understand, for some reason that I cannot possibly understand, in this terrorism conference report that particular provision has been eliminated.

I heard the leader say that this is pretty much the same measure that came through the Senate. I have just listened with great interest. I wish our ranking member of our Judiciary Committee, Senator BIDEN, was on the floor to respond to that. I know we will have a debate on some of those measures. But that, along with other provisions dealing with the explosives and tagging explosives and also the reduction of the provisions, which were accepted in the Senate in terms of wiretapping, which the FBI indicated would be such a powerful force in terms of dealing with the terrorist organizations and potential terrorist bombs, have all been dropped in that conference report. For what reason I do not know. But I heard the leader say that this measure was pretty much what was passed in the Senate. Certainly, if those measures have been addressed and deleted or compromised, I think that we ought to—as I am sure we will—hear Senator BIDEN and others address it.

Mr. DOLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, the Senator from Massachusetts is correct. Senator HATCH is prepared, and he will start on the conference report. We are not going to debate the immigration bill. It is being held hostage now because of the demands on the other side. If we do not want to do anything about illegal immigration, I guess the Democrats can make that happen. Most Americans, by 80 percent, think we should deal with this issue. But now we are going to be held hostage by Social Security amendments and minimum wage amendments. They have five or six others. Then they have the gall to stand up and say, "We want to move ahead on illegal immigration." We know what is happening.

If we can work out a time agreement on relevant amendments, we will pursue illegal immigration or the immigration bill. It passed the committee, as I understand, by a vote of 13 to 4. But if we are going to have extraneous amendments and nonrelevant amendments to help protect some of those who voted wrong on the balanced budget amendment, we could be having this every day—and every day and every day. I just hope the six on the other side who voted for a balanced budget amendment 2 years ago would now, when we have the vote sometime this month or probably next month, vote for the balanced budget amendment—we are just a couple of votes short—and send it to the States for ratification. If three-fourths of the States ratify it, it becomes part of the Constitution.

But we are now prepared to proceed on the antiterrorism conference report. Obviously, not every provision the Senate passed survived the conference. But as I think, as the Senator from Utah outlined to us in our policy luncheon, nearly every important feature in the Senate bill survived the conference, and we believe that it is a good bill that should be passed as quickly as possible so the House might act.

If we can work out some agreement on immigration, we will go back to immigration. If not, we may go to something else. It does not have to proceed here one day at a time. I know some would like to frustrate any efforts on this side of the aisle. But we do have the majority, and we will try to do our best to move legislation that the American people have an interest in. Illegal immigration—wherever you go illegal immigration is a big, big issue. If we are going to be frustrated by efforts on the other side to hold the bill hostage, that is up to them. They can make it happen. Then they can explain that to the voters in November.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I thought we had completed the discussion on immigration. But since it appears that is not the case, let me respond again.

We did not pull the bill. We could be on that bill right now. We could be taking up amendments right now. We have already agreed to short timeframes within which to debate the minimum wage amendment and the Social Security amendment. We can resolve them by 5 o'clock this afternoon and come to completion on the bill itself sometime tonight. We are prepared to do that.

So do not let anybody be misled. We are not holding this bill hostage. We did not pull it down. We did not ask that there be no opportunity to vote. Welcome to the U.S. Senate. Welcome to the U.S. Senate.

If our Republican colleagues are prepared right now, this afternoon, to say that throughout the rest of the 104th Congress they will never offer an irrel-

evant amendment to any bill because doing so would somehow indicate that they do not want a bill to pass or they are going to hold the bill hostage, we might be prepared to talk about that. But everyone knows that is not what this is all about. There are some here who do not want to deal with the issues that we are attempting to address in these amendments.

So I do not think there ought to be any misunderstanding or obfuscation of the question. The question is, Do we support passage of an illegal immigration bill? The answer is not only yes, but emphatically yes. Do we support timeframes within which every amendment could be considered? The answer is yes.

So I hope we can reach an agreement. I hope now we can move on to the counterterrorism bill and address that in a timely manner. I am prepared to sit down this afternoon, tonight, or tomorrow to find a way to resolve the procedural issues regarding how we take up the immigration bill itself.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HATCH addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEWINE). The Senator from Utah.

TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT— CONFERENCE REPORT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the conference report.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I think it is time to vote on the antiterrorism bill.

I have to say that I do not think anybody denies the minority a right to bring up irrelevant amendments. But it is happening on everything. It has happened now for 2—actually better than 2—solid years. When you get something as important as the immigration bill—and I have to say, as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, we worked our guts out to get that bill here because it is such an important bill. It is a bill that every border State in this country and every State in this country is concerned about. Senator SIMPSON has just plain worked for years to get this up. I do not agree with Senator SIMPSON on every aspect of that bill, but I sure admire him. I admire the effort he has put in. I just think it is a tragedy that we cannot move and get the thing done. It is something that every Democrat and every Republican wants to do.

Also, as a former member of and former chairman of the Labor Committee, we have had these minimum wage fights year after year, time after time, and, frankly, to bring it up on immigration, it is a matter of great concern to me that they would do that.

These are a couple of bills—the immigration bill and the antiterrorism bill—that literally ought to be bipartisan every step of the way. We can have our differences, but we ought to be working to resolve these bills.

Sometimes I think this body does not seem to care about what is important for the people out there. I have to

admit that there are very sincere people on the minimum wage. On the other hand, there are other opportunities to bring that up, I suppose. These two bills really should not have a bunch of irrelevant amendments.

Today, the Senate begins consideration of the conference report on S. 735, the Antiterrorism Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996. This is a particularly relevant time to begin this debate because we are fast approaching the 1-year anniversary of the heinous crime that claimed the lives of so many men, women, and children in Oklahoma City, OK. Indeed, this Friday, the 19th, marks the 1-year anniversary of that tragedy. I hope we can in an orderly, decent way get this bill done today so that we can send it to the House and they can do it, so that we can at least do what the Senate ought to do in commemoration of the lives of those who died last year—and those who died in the Lockerbie airline crash, those who have been terrorized all over this world, but especially those who have been and will yet be terrorized in this country.

Although many of the physical wounds endured by the survivors of that blast in Oklahoma City have healed, the wounds to their hearts continue to bleed. We met with a number of them yesterday. Those folks really want this bill.

During this past year, as I have spent time with my own family—Elaine and I have 6 children; all 6 of them are married now, and we have 15 grandchildren—my thoughts have often turned to the survivors of the Oklahoma City tragedy and to the families of those who lost their loved ones on that terrible day a year ago this Friday. I cannot imagine what it would be like to have my family taken from me by the acts of evil men and perhaps women.

I have to say my heart went out to these survivors yesterday who came back here at their own expense to stand with us at that press conference and announce that we finally have arrived at a bill after this full year of effort.

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to meet with some of the families who lost loved ones on that fateful day. The one thing that the survivors of that tragedy and the victims of that tragedy requested was that we try to provide justice to the memories of those who lost their lives in that terrorism blast.

I want to quote the family members of the victim of the bomb who spoke to the Nation yesterday about the need for this bill. Dianne Leonard lost her husband Don, an agent of the U.S. Secret Service. Despite her pain, she came here yesterday, along with other victims of terrorism, and made one of the most eloquent statements I have ever heard on the issue. She said:

In an effort to be caring and honorable human beings, we have granted perpetrators of violent crime much more than their constitutional rights. Our caring and honorable