

I have an amendment to make available \$11.5 million for B-52 bomber modifications. I have an amendment regarding the CAMP Program and an amendment to provide moneys for P-3 aircraft personnel offset by a reduction in defense health and also provides additional money for B-52 squadron personnel. We have a series of other amendments that we are in the process of clearing. I tell the Senate that there are some 20 other amendments ready to go to be debated now. We have an additional series here that I believe will be cleared, and the amendment that is pending has been cleared. I hope we will be able to proceed with those. It does seem to me however, it is just an exercise in futility to have a filibuster on a defense bill. I intend to do what I can to thwart that.

Mr. President, in my judgment, this bill is the key to our being able to complete action on appropriations bills and get the whole subject cleared by the end of the fiscal year. My good friend and our chairman, Senator HATFIELD, is retiring this year. I want to do my best to assure that the key bills that we have, all the appropriations bills, are sent to conference before the August recess.

In my judgment, if we have to give up the August recess to do that, we should do it. If we are going to have filibusters on every bill, then so be it. We will have to break them. It seems this is an unfortunate circumstance.

Let me describe, for instance, this B-52 modification amendment. It provides \$11.5 million within the account that is already outlined in the bill to modify the B-52 aircraft. These are required to maintain the combat effectiveness of the aircraft, should they be called upon once again to fly combat missions. They are going to be offset by a decrease in funds available to the F-15 fighter in the same account. I think we can do that because we can still proceed with the F-15. There has been a delay in the projected contract award, and the fighter data link program will remain fully funded for 1997, according to the maximum amount that can be spent. We believe we should provide these moneys. There is an initiative by the Senators from North Dakota to assure the current floor structure be preserved, and we are trying to prevent attrition of these aircraft. That is one of the amendments I have, and I am seeking to get approval today at this time.

We are also going to add \$4.9 million to the Navy's personnel account and \$4.4 million to the Air Force personnel account to allow the Navy to maintain an end-strength support of the P-3 squadron, and the Air Force to maintain the personnel necessary to carry out the B-52 mission as outlined by the Senators from North Dakota.

We are trying to cooperate as much as possible with many people on the other side of the aisle. I might say, all of these pending amendments are to make sure that amendments to the au-

thorization bill by Members of the minority would be fully funded.

Our leader is here, and I want to yield to the leader, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT OF 1996—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I move to proceed to S. 1936 and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to S. 1936, the nuclear waste bill:

Trent Lott, Larry E. Craig, Fred Thompson, Dan Coats, Don Nickles, Ted Stevens, Craig Thomas, Richard G. Lugar, Slade Gorton, Spencer Abraham, Frank H. Murkowski, Conrad R. Burns, Dirk Kempthorne, Alan K. Simpson, Bill Frist, Hank Brown.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now withdraw the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to proceed is withdrawn.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I send to the desk a motion to invoke cloture on the passage of the pending bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on S. 1894, the Defense Appropriations bill.

Trent Lott, Ted Stevens, Larry E. Craig, Fred Thompson, Dan Coats, Charles Grassley, Richard G. Lugar, Don Nickles, Mark O. Hatfield, Craig Thomas, Slade Gorton, Spencer Abraham, Frank H. Murkowski, Conrad R. Burns, Dirk Kempthorne, Hank Brown.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I simply say to my friend from Nevada that we can either proceed with the Defense bill and finish it today, or if he wishes to try to filibuster this bill, if he will not agree to a time agreement, it is my recommendation to the leader that we recess until Monday and have the votes on the cloture. That means we will take up the nuclear waste bill first and when we get cloture on that, we will vote on it, and when we are finished with that, we will finish the Defense appropriation bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished managers of this very important legislation: Senator STE-

VEN, who is the chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, and Senator INOUE, the great Senator from Hawaii. They always do a magnificent job on this legislation. It is legislation that is very, very important to the defense of our country and carrying out our commitments here in this country and around the world. We have troops in Bosnia right now that have a very important role they are trying to carry out. The President is committed to that. They need the funds that are necessary to do their job wherever they are in the world, where sailors are steaming today. They are looking to us to provide the funds. There are very important funds in this legislation for every state that our military men and women are serving in, and we need to get this done. We have 7 weeks left in this year. We have 12 appropriations bills to get done, including this one. We must get that done or we cannot go home. We must get started, and we can complete this bill, I think, very quickly.

Now, what has happened—I understand the concern by the Senators from Nevada about the nuclear waste issue. By forcing my hand to do these cloture motions, it has speeded up the time in which this issue will come to a head. I had planned on not filing a cloture motion on the nuclear waste issue until Friday and the vote would have occurred on Tuesday, but now it really is bringing it up sooner than it would have otherwise.

Mr. President, this is an urgent, important issue for our country. There is dangerous, radioactive nuclear waste stored in cooling pools all over this country from Vermont to Minnesota to Idaho to South Carolina. This has been an issue for 10 years which the Congress and the governments, the administrations, Republican and Democrat, have not sufficiently addressed. Countries like Sweden, France, Britain, and Japan have stepped up to this issue of how we deal with the temporary and permanent storage of nuclear waste, but in America we have not been able to bring ourselves to do it.

At the same time, the ratepayers have paid millions, in fact, billions of dollars to move toward a time when we would have a permanent storage site for nuclear waste. Do we wish it would go away? Of course. We cannot wish it away. It is there. Something must be done. This nuclear waste legislation is probably the most important environmental legislation this Congress or any Congress will consider.

(Mr. INHOFE assumed the chair.)

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, we cannot stick our heads in the sand. If we do, we will probably be radioactive. We have to step up to this issue. This is a bipartisan bill. This is a bill that Senator MURKOWSKI has worked very hard on, as have Senator CRAIG of Idaho and Senator BENNETT JOHNSTON. We cannot just ignore it. Do I want to bring it up now at a time when we are trying to work together to move Presidential

nominations, judicial appointments, appropriations bills? No. But I do not have a choice. As majority leader, when I have bipartisan senior leaders of the Congress come to me and say we have a fundamental national issue that must be addressed, I cannot ignore it.

Does it eat up time? Yes. We blew 4 or 5 hours yesterday. We could have finished this bill last night or this morning. Are we balled up here now? Yes. Do I want that? No. But can we ignore our responsibility? Absolutely not.

Now, let me say again, I am sympathetic to how the Senators from Nevada feel. I know they cannot accept this without a fight. But I ask the distinguished Senator from Nevada to allow us to do our work on the Department of Defense appropriations bill, give us an opportunity to work with him and find any opportunity that we can to be fair and work with him. But we cannot ignore this problem any further. So, again, I wanted to make those points. I think they are very important. I hope that we can work something out. I will be glad to work with the Democratic leader. I know the Democratic leader wants to proceed on the Department of Defense appropriations bill. He has assured me of that personally. I know he has given the managers, Senator INOUE and Senator STEVENS, that commitment and assurance. So I hope we can find a way to face up to this issue and also to allow the Senate to get its work done.

We are now locked in a rolling filibuster on every issue, which is totally gridlocking the U.S. Senate. That is wrong. It is wrong for America. We cannot get the appropriations bills done. We cannot get the taxpayers' bill of rights done. We cannot get the White House Travel Office bill for Billy Dale done. We cannot get the gaming commission issue up. I do not support all of these bills, but we have an obligation to allow the Senate to do its work. That is not happening. I hope we can find a way to do it on this bill today.

I yield the floor.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, notwithstanding rule XXII, that the cloture vote with respect to the pending bill, the DOD appropriations bill, occur at 1 p.m., and I might say that we are prepared to let the Senator from Nevada talk and have all the time between now and 1 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I have not yielded the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska has the floor.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, will the Senator from Alaska yield?

Mr. STEVENS. Yes.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, what was the consent that was asked for and objected to?

Mr. STEVENS. I sought to accelerate the time to vote on the Defense appropriations bill. If we could bring that to a vote at 1 o'clock, I feel certain we will get cloture, and we would have 30 hours for debate on this bill. I believe that would expire before the time to vote on the nuclear waste bill, which, under other circumstances, will come first on Monday.

I am prepared to state that I think we can finish the bill today or tomorrow. It might mean that we would stay in session tonight to do so. But I would like to get this bill through. I think that there is no greater issue facing the country today than the amount and level of support for our armed services and the people in Bosnia. I think the uncertainty involved here is going to lead to some real problems.

I hope that maybe we might have a chance to have a recess and let us just try to discuss this with the Senator from Nevada and others and see if we can get to this bill. There is no question in my mind that we are going to vote on this bill one way or the other. If cloture is the only way to get to it, we will have to do that.

Mr. LOTT. If the Senator will yield, Mr. President, I would like to further inquire, if I could, with the indulgence of the Senator from Alaska, with him retaining control of the floor. What are the wishes of the Senator from Nevada? Does he wish to just talk for a period of time? Can we accommodate him in some way? I do not want to cut him off, but I know that he has to be also aware of the desires of the 98 other Senators in trying to get the work done of the Senate on the Department of Defense appropriations bill. Would the Senator like to talk for an hour? What are his intentions?

Mr. REID. I say to my friends, Senator INOUE, Senator STEVENS, and the majority leader that I understand the importance of this bill. I am a member of the committee. I think we have had the good fortune of having the other military appropriations bill, military construction, passed. I am very happy about that. I received the support of Senators STEVENS and INOUE on that. That bill pales in the comparison to this bill, and I understand that.

But I respectfully say to my friend, the majority leader, that I disagree that S. 1936 is the most important environmental issue facing this Congress. I say, respectfully, to my friend that if the majority feels this is the most important environmental issue, no wonder the American public is upset at some of the environmental stands taken by this Congress.

Now, I say to my friends, I support this bill. I speak in favor of this bill. I believe, as outlined by Senators INOUE and STEVENS, that we do not have an obligation—in fact, we have a contrary obligation—to go along with what the White House suggests as to levels of military spending. We are a separate, just-as-important, equal branch of Government. Therefore, I support this bill.

But I also have obligations to the people of the State of Nevada and of this country to have every opportunity that I can to speak about S. 1936, which the President is going to veto. That is one of the points I tried to make yesterday. Hopefully, I did it well. I think we are wasting a lot of time here, when the President says he is going to veto the bill anyway. So I will be happy to cooperate in any way that I can. It is my understanding, as someone told me, that there might be some need for a recess.

Even though I do not speak very loud most of the time, I have the opportunity and the right as a Senator to follow the rules. That is all I am asking to do. I am not asking that any special privilege be extended to this Senator. But as those Senators in this Chamber know, I feel very strongly about S. 1936. I think it is a waste of our time. I would like to take every possible opportunity to speak on this.

Mr. LOTT. Would the Senator from Nevada be willing to bring this bill up right now?

Mr. REID. I would not.

Mr. LOTT. I have just one reaction, if I can ask the Senator from Alaska to continue to yield to me. First of all, I would be amazed if the President of the United States would veto this bill after it has gone through the House and the Senate, supported by Senators from the diverse States I named, all the way from Minnesota, Idaho, Vermont, New Hampshire, my own State, and perhaps others. But, if the Congress gets to the point where, just because of the mere threat from the President of a veto, we do not act, we might as well go ahead and leave now for the year because he is talking about vetoing every bill that is moving. I do not think we can use that as a basis of not acting on important legislation.

RECESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I move that the Senate stand in recess until the hour of 1 p.m. today.

Mr. REID. Objection.

I wish to make an inquiry.

Will the Senator from Alaska yield for a question; or the majority leader?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair advises the Senator that a unanimous-consent request is pending.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I moved that the Senate stand in recess until 1 p.m.

Mr. REID. I apologize to the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on the motion.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is not a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays.