

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.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 11:12 a.m., recessed until the hour of 1 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer [Mr. STEVENS].

QUORUM CALL

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. STEVENS). In my capacity as a Senator from Alaska, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Mr. BRYAN. Objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). Objection is heard.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk resumed the call of the roll, and the following Senators answered to their names:

Bryan	Inouye	Nickles
Coats	Kempthorne	Reid
Conrad	Kyl	Santorum
Craig	Lott	Stevens
Daschle	Mack	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A quorum is not present.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I move to instruct the Sergeant at Arms to request the presence of absent Senators.

Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is agreeing to the motion. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. CHAFEE] and the Senator from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS] are necessarily absent.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from Vermont [Mr. LEAHY], the Senator from Illinois [Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN], and the Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY] are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 192 Leg.]

YEAS—93

Abraham	Feinstein	Lott
Akaka	Ford	Lugar
Ashcroft	Frahm	Mack
Baucus	Frist	McConnell
Biden	Glenn	Mikulski
Bingaman	Gorton	Moynihan
Bond	Graham	Murkowski
Boxer	Gramm	Nickles
Bradley	Grams	Nunn
Breaux	Grassley	Pell
Brown	Gregg	Pressler
Bryan	Harkin	Pryor
Bumpers	Hatch	Reid
Burns	Hatfield	Robb
Byrd	Heflin	Rockefeller
Campbell	Helms	Roth
Coats	Hollings	Santorum
Cochran	Hutchison	Sarbanes
Cohen	Inhofe	Shelby
Conrad	Inouye	Simon
Coverdell	Johnston	Simpson
Craig	Kassebaum	Smith
D'Amato	Kempthorne	Snowe
Daschle	Kennedy	Specter
DeWine	Kerry	Stevens
Dodd	Kerry	Thomas
Domenici	Kohl	Thompson
Dorgan	Kyl	Thurmond
Exon	Lautenberg	Warner
Faircloth	Levin	Wellstone
Feingold	Lieberman	Wyden

NAYS—2

Bennett McCain

NOT VOTING—5

Chafee Leahy Murray
Jeffords Moseley-Braun

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A quorum is present.

The distinguished majority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I begin by pointing out that in order to come off of a quorum call I had to use this procedure of instructing the Sergeant at Arms to get the presence of the Members here. It is the first time I ever had to do that as majority leader, and I do not like to do it. I remember grumbling loudly when it was done by a former majority leader. In fact, I usually voted no because I hated the procedure. However, I had no alternative, because I was trying to come off of a quorum call so we could have some discussion about the situation we find ourselves in. That exercise is reflective of why we are in this situation right now.

Apparently, Mr. President, there is a planned concerted effort to have gridlock in the U.S. Senate. We need to do the people's business. I am committed to that. I still think that the best thing to do for ourselves politically is to do what is right for the country, and for us to be locked down and not able to move any legislation after the exercise we went through to vote on the small business tax relief package and the minimum wage, to sort of clear the decks and move on to other issues, and now I find that instead of gridlock being broken it is beginning to get worse every day.

Mr. President, we have now in this Congress had to file 73 cloture motions, I presume probably the largest in history. There were 40 in the 102d Congress, 51 in the 103d Congress, and al-

ready 73 in the 104th Congress. Now, I am new in this position. I am trying mightily to do a good job by finding a way to produce, finding a way for the Senate to act, while honoring the needs of 100 Senators. It is not easy. It is very hard. It takes cooperation. It takes communication. I have been doing that. I tried to talk to my colleagues, one by one, small groups, repeated meetings, and I tried doing it across the aisle.

I say, honestly, I found the Democratic leader open and helpful in many instances, and I tried to work with others. Senator PRYOR from Arkansas has a bill that he has been working on for years. He started this whole effort of having the taxpayer bill of rights. For heaven's sakes, we ought to have that. The taxpayers ought to have some rights when it comes to dealing with the Internal Revenue Service. Yet we have not been able to get that bill cleared. Why? I do not understand.

As soon as I was elected to this position I said, "Look, enough on this Federal Reserve Board holdup. Let the Senators talk. Decide on a time, have our say, and vote." They are the President's nominees. We may not like them. I did not like all of them. I voted against one of them. Some of you voted against one of them, maybe somebody voted against two of them, but we agreed on a time with the distinguished majority leader and those that had problems—the Senator from Iowa had held up these nominees from his own administration for weeks. I said, "Enough. Give them the time, talk about it, vote, and go on."

Small business tax relief and minimum wage have been sitting in our lap for weeks, months, balling up everything. I could have been willing to just continue it that way because I did not like the way it was set up, but it would have wound up tying up the small business tax relief, minimum wage, taxpayers bill of rights, the Billy Dale White House travel issue, and I do not know whatever else was balled up in the Gordian knot. I said for the good of the Senate, for Democrats and Republicans, and some of my colleagues did not like my concerted, aggressive continuous effort to find a way to resolve that issue, but I stayed with it and I stayed with it. The Democratic leader and I have worked, and we ran into little problems. Sometimes he misunderstood what I said. Sometimes I could not carry out what I thought I could. Sometimes he could not. We had to rework it, but we did it. We set up a process to do it.

Regular order. I remember Senator Mitchell saying what we need to do is the regular order. There is a way you do things around here. You bring up a bill reported by a committee, have debate, offer amendments, you vote and win or lose, and you move on, and then it goes to conference.

Now, on both sides we are beginning to block appointments of conferees. This is a relatively new device—not unprecedented, but are we going to start