

details of exactly what the rest of the bill will entail even though almost everybody knows what is in it. But we need to make sure that the Senators and the Congressmen on both sides have a chance to go over it and make sure that the words are as we think they are supposed to be.

So I am very disappointed about this. I even wondered once again if there was an intent not to have any votes tonight or tomorrow from the very beginning. The Senator from South Dakota, the Democratic leader, assured me that is not the case, and I accept his word. But it sure looks to me like maybe there was some knowledge that there were not going to be any votes tonight.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, would the Senator yield?

Mr. LOTT. I yield to the Senator.

Mr. DASCHLE. The majority leader raises the question on the floor, so I think it is important that I again reiterate to him for the Record that there was absolutely no desire on my part to avoid doing business, whatever the business may be. There are obviously some very serious questions that the distinguished Senators from Nevada have attempted to raise in light of their concern on nuclear waste. But at no time have I instructed members of our caucus that they should feel free to leave.

Our desire is to get some work done, regardless of whether we make a great deal of progress or not, at least to be here to try to get the work done. I have emphasized that. I cautioned them not to leave because there could be votes either tonight or tomorrow. I reiterate that statement now, as I did this afternoon in our Democratic policy committee. So I think that point ought to be very clear to everybody. I hope we can put that rumor to rest once and for all.

Mr. LOTT. I appreciate that assurance.

Mr. LEAHY. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. LOTT. I will be glad to yield to the Senator.

Mr. LEAHY. I want to totally confirm what the Democratic leader has said. I am one of the more senior Members on our side, and I certainly would be one who would have known had there been any such plan. I can assure both leaders that had there been such, I would not be here talking to the two Senators. I would probably be on the front porch of my farm in Vermont right now planning to spend the weekend seeing constituents and working from my computer connection in Vermont rather than here.

So I can assure both my friends, who are my friends, the two leaders, that had there been any such plan on this side, first, I would have known about it, but, second, I would be in Vermont by now.

Mr. LOTT. Having been through good times and bad times with the Senator from Vermont, that is very comforting. I accept that, and I thank the Senator for that assurance.

Can I inquire of the Democratic leader if there is a possibility we could get an agreement on the taxpayers bill of rights tonight? I thought we kind of worked through that. I think it could maybe be some sign of good faith here if we could get that done. Again, it is bipartisan. The American people deserve it. Why do we not do it? If it would be possible, I would like to try to get that agreed to tonight.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, responding to the distinguished majority leader, we have consulted with the senior Senator from Ohio, Senator GLENN. It is my understanding that, on the assumption that we can insert in the RECORD at the time of the consideration of H.R. 2337 a colloquy between Senators ROTH and GLENN concerning confidentiality of records, I think we would be prepared to move the taxpayers bill of rights. That is assuming, of course—and the distinguished majority leader has been very good about moving these judges and keeping them ahead, but I would like to do that as well today if we could.

Mr. LOTT. If we could get this done, then we could maybe—I have always maintained that the only way you get these things moving is to get them moving one at a time. If we get a little reciprocity, we get a little something here and something there, then we can get this locomotive moving again.

Mr. BRYAN. Would the majority leader yield for a question?

Mr. LOTT. Let me respond to the taxpayers bill of rights. It is my understanding, with regard to Senator GLENN's concerns, that the Finance Committee chairman has agreed to move, in a future appropriate tax bill, Senator GLENN's amendment to impose criminal penalties for the unauthorized browsing of confidential taxpayer information by IRS employees. I believe that is the assurance that he wanted. That is my understanding, and I feel sure that would be lived up to.

Mr. DASCHLE. I am informed that that is the commitment he was looking for. On that basis, I think we would be prepared to move to that particular piece of legislation.

Mr. BRYAN. Will the majority leader yield for a question?

Mr. LOTT. I will be glad to.

Mr. BRYAN. What is the nature of the unanimous-consent agreement that is being propounded?

Mr. LOTT. I did not actually propound one. I am asking whether it is possible that the concerns that have been raised have been worked out. I understand they have been, and this would be a unanimous-consent request to pass the taxpayers bill of rights. In view of that, let me go through, then, some requests.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— S. 1936

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask for an agreement with regard to nuclear waste. I ask unanimous consent that

the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 1936, the nuclear waste bill, on Tuesday, July 23, at 12 noon, and immediately after the bill is called up, the majority leader be recognized for the purpose of filing a cloture motion on the bill, and there then be 15 minutes for debate prior to the cloture vote.

This is the latest version. The time is equally divided in the usual form, with the cloture vote occurring at 2:15 on Tuesday, July 23. If cloture is invoked, the bill will immediately be laid aside and it will become the pending business on Tuesday, September 3, 1996, at a time to be determined by the two leaders; and following final passage of the bill, if in the affirmative, then it would be in order for the Senate to insist on its amendments, if applicable, request a conference with the House, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate, all without further action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BRYAN. I object.

Mr. LOTT. Could I inquire of the Senator from Nevada what his objection is to that?

Mr. BRYAN. I would be happy to state my objection. As you know, the Senators from Nevada have worked with the majority leader, with those on the other side of the aisle who are proponents of this legislation. We have had an exchange of proposals, as the majority leader knows, during the course of this afternoon.

The latest proposal that was brought back by the other side of the aisle had a provision in it which had not previously been discussed and was unacceptable, so we could not accept it.

Mr. LOTT. The provision with regard to going to conference?

Mr. BRYAN. That is the provision that had not heretofore been discussed, as the majority leader knows, and we had assumed within the parameters of what was being discussed all rights would be reserved under rule XXII, including any options that might be available to us in the event that this legislation moved to conference.

So it was on that basis that we interposed our objection.

Mr. LOTT. I want to make sure I understood. I just note that if every opportunity was taken with regard to going to conference, that could lead to at least three more votes, three more debatable motions, and would take up days, and therefore without that, we have accomplished almost nothing with that.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. LOTT. I would be glad to yield.

Mr. REID. I do have the right to object. I think there has been an objection. I say respectfully to my friend the majority leader and to the minority leader, we have an obligation to move legislation along here. We agree with the statement of the majority leader, we should move legislation, but take it a step at a time.

What we thought we were doing, the Senators from Nevada, is moving this—

we were jumping two steps. We were willing to do away with those, but we cannot waive all of our rights, and we know how important it is to move legislation. We felt that by going directly to the Defense appropriations bill, getting that completed, doing other things that will be able to be completed, without the two Senators from Nevada exercising their rights—under the rules, we felt we were doing the country and the two leaders here, in effect, a favor, but to have us avoid three or four different procedural moves that we have, seems to be a little bit too much.

We appreciate you trying to work with us. I object.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— S. 1894

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent during the pendency of S. 1894, the Department of Defense appropriations bill, that it be considered under the following time restraints: 1 hour on the bill to be equally divided in the usual form, 1 hour on all first-degree amendments which must be relevant, 30 minutes on all relevant second-degree amendments.

I further ask unanimous consent that any rollcall votes ordered with respect to the DOD appropriations bill on Friday, July 12, on Monday, July 15, occur beginning at 9:30 a.m., on Tuesday, July 16, and following the disposition of all amendments, S. 1894 be read for a third time, the Senate proceed immediately to H.R. 3610, the House companion bill, all after the enacting clause be stricken, the text of S. 1894, as amended, be inserted, and H.R. 3610 be read for a third time, and final passage occur at 2:15 p.m. on Tuesday, July 16, notwithstanding rule XXII, and that no call for the regular order serve to displace the Department of Defense appropriations bill.

Mr. President, as I state that, I want to emphasize no matter what happens on the nuclear waste issue, we still have this Department of Defense appropriations bill awaiting action. The chairman is here ready to go. I am trying to get some order and some reasonable manner in which to handle this very important bill.

I am glad to yield to the Senator from Alaska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is an objection heard?

Mr. BRYAN. Objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. STEVENS. There is an objection? I thought that was cleared on the other side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. STEVENS. Will the majority leader yield?

Mr. LOTT. I am glad to yield.

Mr. STEVENS. There is a cloture motion pending, which I understand will ripen into a vote on Tuesday. We are not in session on Monday, but it would be Monday if we are in session.

I regret that very much. This will accomplish the same thing. Under cloture, we will have an hour on each amendment, actually have an hour on two amendments if you wish to do so, but Mr. President, we have lost 2 days in the defense bill already. We will have a very tough time to try and conference this bill. We are trying our best to work with the administration to see if we can get the bill signed once again this year. The Senator from Hawaii and I have accommodated the White House on several matters already. We are trying to work this out, but we need time.

I think the Senator is putting us in the position where we are not going to be able to go out in August if we keep this up. I do not understand the objection to this because it is the same thing—if we had voted cloture on Tuesday, by definition, we cannot get to it until Tuesday, anyway. I do not know why we cannot proceed with this bill.

The alternative, as far as I am concerned, it is the pending measure and I am going to ask the distinguished leader that we just stay in on this bill. I can guarantee the Senator we will have some votes tonight and tomorrow if we stay in. The bill is the pending measure, and I would like to stay in and get going on this bill. I do not know what the leader wants to do.

Mr. REID. Will the leader yield, if the Senator is finished.

Mr. LOTT. I am glad to yield.

Mr. REID. I respectfully say to my friend from Alaska, through the majority leader, that we understand the rules also—maybe not as well as the distinguished Senator from Alaska. We feel we know what our rights are. If it is the wish of the Senate to stay in tonight, that is fine. But I think there is going to be a lot of business conducted.

We have been willing to play by the rules. To hear that we are holding up progress in the Senate is also to understand that we feel that a lot of the time being wasted, if not all the time, is based on the fact that we have a bill that was brought out that is very selective in nature. We have all kinds of other things we need to do. The President said he will veto this. We feel the waste of time is not on the shoulders of the two Senators from Nevada. I am sure the Senator from Alaska did not mean it that way, but in fact if there is some effort to threaten, or the fact that we will be in late tonight, I have no place else to go. I will be here late tonight.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent we have a cloture vote on the defense appropriations bill at 7 o'clock tonight.

Mr. REID. I object.

Mr. LOTT. I yield to the Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I feel constrained to say, over the last recess I had the privilege of being able to fish at home on the river, and the men and women from throughout the country kept asking me one thing: What is gridlock? Why do we have gridlock? I

think the American public is getting very disturbed about this. I have to say, it is obvious I am getting disturbed.

We have worked a long time to frame a bill that I think is possible to pass both the Senate and come out of conference, and go to the President. I think it is one of the most contentious issues facing America today, and that is the continued funding of our defense system. I do not understand why we cannot get going on it. It has nothing to do with nuclear waste. It has nothing to do with delay on nuclear waste. Nuclear waste will be the subject of a cloture motion vote on Tuesday. I just do not understand why we have to be gridlocked on defense. Of all the matters that we ought to be dealing with, it is defense. Why should we have a gridlock on defense? The people in this country, I think, have a right to ask this Congress why should you gridlock on defense? This is a gridlock, as far as I am concerned. We have tried for 2 days to get this bill going and the delay has nothing to do with defense, I am told, nothing at all. If it has nothing to do with defense, why should anyone object to our proceeding with this bill?

I hope the leader will let me continue. I can show you how we will have some votes tonight and tomorrow. I can guarantee you we will have votes if we keep going.

Mrs. BOXER. Will the majority leader yield?

Mr. LOTT. I yield for a question.

Mrs. BOXER. As I listened to the Senator from Alaska, there is a way to break through all this.

As I hear the Senators in Nevada, they will not object to moving to the defense bill at all. As a matter of fact, as long as I have known them, they have worked hard on those bills, as hard as anyone else here. But they are saying, if this particular bill dealing with nuclear waste would be pulled, they would not object. If I might ask my friends, are they not saying that the reason they are objecting is because they are bringing this nuclear waste bill forward?

Mr. REID. Will the majority leader yield so that I may answer the question?

Mr. LOTT. I yield for the Senator to answer the question.

Mr. REID. I say to the Senator from California, I am a supporter of this bill. I am on the Appropriations Committee. One of the most troubling things I have done since I have been in the Senate is to have my friend, the senior Senator from Hawaii, come to me and say, "Can we move this bill?" and I say, "No." There is no one in the Senate I have more respect for than the senior Senator from Hawaii.

We feel that the shoe is on the other foot. We are not the ones holding things up. It is being held up because they are moving on this bill, which the President said he is going to veto. Maybe we cannot continue this forever.