

opportunity to get what you need temporarily with training to go out and get a job and look after your family.

It has been a long haul with more than a few dead-ends. But we stuck with it. We forged the kind of compromises that were needed to move it ahead, and at last we have come to our destination: ending the destructive welfare cycle. That is what this is all about.

There is more than enough credit to go around. But I think special tribute clearly should be given to the Senator from Delaware, Senator ROTH. He has pulled off a gold medal performance this week. He was lead chairman on the welfare reform bill. He was the chairman that negotiated the agreement on the small business tax relief bill, and he was the lead participant in the health insurance reform legislation; a tremendous week. We are all indebted to Senator ROTH for that great work. I know it has been exhausting, but I know you are extremely proud of the accomplishment that you have in this bill and those other bills.

Of course, the venerable chairman of the Budget Committee, Senator DOMENICI, hangs in there. It was going to be maybe just a few hours and then it looked like it was going to be the full 10 hours. He has to do it over and over again. He has been a partner with the Senator from Delaware. They have done a great job. He is the most knowledgeable Member that we have on how we deal with these budget issues.

Senator NICKLES, at my request, was representative of the leadership in a lot of the negotiations. That youngster from Pennsylvania, Senator RICK SANTORUM, he was great. He came to the floor one night. He did his job. He knew his subject matter. He has been working on it for 2 years—actually longer than that. I guess about 4 years. He really knows the intricacies of this bill. It has been bipartisan, House and Senate. The vote in the House, 328 to 101. That looks mighty broad to me in its support and its bipartisanship.

In the Senate, Senator BREAUX was involved and helpful as we went along. Senator LIEBERMAN, I read his article, I believe, in a New York newspaper last week, an excellent article. So I think we have truly made this bipartisan. It is an effort of which we can be proud.

Also, I have to say this. A lot of credit goes to the man whom I succeeded as majority leader. Bob Dole worked on this effort, pushed this effort, would not let it end, helped get it through, not once but twice, and was committed to getting it done again this year for the third time. Without his leadership, without his determination, without his commitment, we would not be here tonight passing this welfare reform package. In my opinion, it should truly be called the Dole Welfare Reform Package.

The last time I spoke on the Senate floor about welfare, I expressed the hope then that President Clinton would not again veto the reform bill that we

had come up with on welfare. And I did have an opportunity over the past 2 weeks to talk with him about it. There were some changes made that he had hoped for in the bill, and so I am, frankly, greatly satisfied that he has announced he will, indeed, sign this bill into law.

So now our country begins a great transition. It will be complicated and difficult and probably will require fine tuning on our part in the future, but we have made a start. We have made a commitment. We signed on to the blueprint for the most profound restructuring of public assistance since the New Deal.

This legislation will end the Federal entitlement to welfare and replace it with block grants to the States. All by itself, that makes this landmark legislation. But the flexibility for the States and the Governors, I think, will work well. They are close to the problems. They will be able to use the money where it is needed the greatest to help the people who need it the most.

More than that, for the first time ever we are legislatively imposing time limits on the receipt of welfare on an endless basis, and for the first time ever we are applying a meaningful work requirement that can help recipients make the move—and we know it is not always an easy one—from dependence to independence.

That is what we desire and we hope for all Americans. This bill responds to a consensus among the American people by ending most welfare for noncitizens. It strengthens our child support enforcement and paternity establishment requirements. It combats fraud and abuse of welfare programs and will save the taxpayers about \$54.5 billion over the next 6 years.

We can be proud of this package, and we can build on it in the months ahead as we seek to improve Medicaid and other programs of assistance to the needy. We are going to be working with the Governors to make sure that this bill sets the pattern for a new era of cooperation between the States and the Federal Government.

Again, I thank everyone whose diligence and patience brought us this far. There is an old saying: "Well begun is only half done." Today, the herculean task of comprehensive welfare reform is, indeed, well begun and much more than half done.

With the lessons we have learned in this effort, we can finish the job for the benefit of both the taxpayers of America and the poor in the months ahead.

I yield the floor.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH). Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the conference report to accompany H.R. 3734, the Budget Reconciliation Act of 1997.

The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

[Disturbance in the Gallery]

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will cease until order is restored.

The Sergeant at Arms is directed to restore order.

The Senate will come to order.

The clerk will resume the call of the roll.

The legislative clerk resumed the call of the roll.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. PRYOR] is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber who desire to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 262 Leg.]

YEAS—78

Abraham	Ford	Lott
Ashcroft	Frahm	Lugar
Baucus	Frist	Mack
Bennett	Gorton	McCain
Biden	Graham	McConnell
Bond	Gramm	Mikulski
Breaux	Grams	Murkowski
Brown	Grassley	Nickles
Bryan	Gregg	Nunn
Burns	Harkin	Pressler
Byrd	Hatch	Reid
Campbell	Hatfield	Robb
Chafee	Heflin	Rockefeller
Coats	Helms	Roth
Cochran	Hollings	Santorum
Cohen	Hutchison	Shelby
Conrad	Inhofe	Simpson
Coverdell	Jeffords	Smith
Craig	Johnston	Snowe
D'Amato	Kassebaum	Specter
DeWine	Kempthorne	Stevens
Domenici	Kerry	Thomas
Dorgan	Kohl	Thompson
Exon	Kyl	Thurmond
Faircloth	Levin	Warner
Feingold	Lieberman	Wyden

NAYS—21

Akaka	Feinstein	Moseley-Braun
Bingaman	Glenn	Moynihan
Boxer	Inouye	Murray
Bradley	Kennedy	Pell
Bumpers	Kerrey	Sarbanes
Daschle	Lautenberg	Simon
Dodd	Leahy	Wellstone

NOT VOTING—1

Pryor

The conference report was agreed to.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the conference report was agreed to.

Mr. NICKLES. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will come to order. Members will stop conversations so the Chair can recognize the majority leader.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, can we have order in the Chamber?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will come to order. Will Senators please take their conversations to the Cloakroom?

MEASURES PLACED ON CAL-
ENDAR—S. 2006, S. 2007 and H.R.
2391

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will now read three bills for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2006) to clarify the intent of Congress with respect to the Federal carjacking prohibition.

A bill (S. 2007) to clarify the intent of Congress with respect to the Federal carjacking prohibition.

A bill (H.R. 2391) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for all employees.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I object to further consideration at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

THE SENATE'S SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I know that Senators are waiting to see what might be the schedule for the remainder of the evening. There are a number of discussions underway now on a number of issues that we would like to get completed before we leave this week-end.

I want to say again tonight, as I did this morning, I really think that the last 2 days have involved a lot of tremendous legislative good work by Members on both sides of the aisle. I do not ever recall having ever seen as many bipartisan conferences in as many places at one time as yesterday.

Yesterday morning, I really didn't think it would be possible to reach an agreement on the conference report on health insurance reform, on safe drinking water, and, of course, we already reached agreement on welfare reform, and before the night was out, even the small business tax relief package and minimum wage. It looks like there will be an agreement also on illegal immigration.

I don't know exactly when all of those will move, but it is my fervent hope that all that work will not be for naught before we leave. We would like to be able to bring up some appropriations conference reports that have been completed. The legislative appropriations conference report is ready. We hope to be able to get to the military construction appropriations conference report, if not tonight, tomorrow.

That probably will require a vote, since we didn't vote on it when it went through earlier, and the District of Columbia appropriations conference report will also probably require a vote.

We would like to do those either tonight or in the morning. And we would like to also get the conference reports that have been agreed to: the health insurance conference report, the safe drinking water conference report, the small business tax relief package with minimum wage, and if there are other conference reports that could become available later on. The Department of Defense authorization conference report is available, too.

So we have several conference reports that we could get done tonight or

tomorrow with just a little cooperation. There are some nominations that we think we can move forward. We have been working on those today. I think we can get some of those moved. So it is my hope that we could get those done.

Also, I would want to move to the HUD-VA appropriations bill. I know the chairman is here, Senator BOND, who has been very patiently waiting his appropriations opportunity. The Senator from Maryland is here ready to go. So if we could have a few unanimous-consent requests and work through those, then we would try to go to the HUD-VA appropriations bill.

I just want to make the Members aware of that. We need to have some additional discussions here in the next few minutes. If we could come to some agreements, then we should be able to notify the Members within 30 minutes what they can expect for the remainder of the evening and whether or not there would be any recorded votes tonight.

I would be prepared to yield the floor and observe the absence of a quorum, Mr. President, where we could work on a couple issues, and we would let the Members know as soon as possible thereafter. I yield the floor, Mr. President, and 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 do not believe we have been able to come to a satisfactory resolution of some of our concerns that Senators have on both sides of the aisle. We have had a very productive week and a good day. It is already 20 until 9. I know several Senators have had other things on their minds today, so I do not see any sense in pressing the point too far tonight.

I do feel constrained to ask for at least two unanimous-consent requests. We will see what happens. Then, depending on that, we will be able to make some further announcement.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— CONFERENCE REPORT TO AC- COMPANY H.R. 3754

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, with regard to the legislative branch appropriations conference report, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to the conference report to accompany H.R. 3754, the legislative branch appropriations bill, that the conference report be considered as having been read and agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LOTT. You did object? All right.

Mr. President, we have been hoping to go to the HUD-VA appropriations bill for over a week now, but because we were assured on various bills that they would take just a short period of time, we have been able to move through eight appropriations bills. I appreciate the success we have had with that. But this is the one that we need to go to and get done so that we do not have to have a Saturday session. It is my intent to complete this bill even if it does involve going to a Saturday session.

It would be nice if we could put that down tonight so that the chairman and the ranking member could get some work done. But we can do that tomorrow, and then we can finish up or we can work on that on Saturday. It is already in my mind that we are going to be here Saturday. So I have been feeling all day that this is really kind of Wednesday, and so tomorrow is only Thursday by my body clock.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 3666

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to the consideration of the HUD-VA appropriations bill, H.R. 3666.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WELLSTONE. Reserving the right to object, and the majority leader has been working in very good faith. I appreciate it.

I just let my colleagues know that this is not my first choice, but month after month after month I have been very patient. The last several weeks I have been very patient. I think the majority leader would be the first person to say I have worked through the process.

We have a very gifted judge, Hennepin County Judge Ann Montgomery. I thought there was a clear agreement that she would be cleared last night. That did not happen. It is not my choice that somebody objected. I have heard no substantive reasons given to that objection, and that is why I object to moving forward.

I am going to fight very hard for Ann Montgomery because she is an immensely talented, gifted judge, with broad support in Minnesota, broad support in the legal community. What has been going on here is just or fair to her. That is why I object.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I could respond, first, let me announce that was the last vote tonight. There will be no further votes tonight. We will begin tomorrow morning at 10:30 on Friday morning.

I think all the Members know I have been trying to work through these judges. We have, I think, cleared 16 judges from across the country. Some of them had some problems. We were able to look into those problems, and