

Federal level without a clue as to whether or not any of them are working or doing any good. My guess is that some of them are probably counterproductive.

A lot of people want to pass, as a part of a bill, to have youthful offenders sentenced as adults. In some cases, if States want to do that, that is fine with me. But we were going to impose a requirement that all States sentence youthful offenders as adults within certain categories until we found out that the way it plays out in some cases is they would get less time as an adult than they would in a juvenile facility.

There is just an awful lot we don't know.

Why should we be forcing States to adhere to some kind of a national standard as to how long a person ought to serve for a list of crimes? If we really believe we ought to do that, why don't we just go ahead and do it directly?

We have seen the benefit of a system our Founding Fathers established over and over and over again. This is not just textbook stuff. It has to do with power, and the use of power, and who is going to use power, and how concentrated you want it. It has to do with innovation. It has to do with experimentation. It has to do with good competition among the States. We have seen welfare reform, education choice, competitive tax policies, and public-private partnerships all thrive at the State level. Good things are happening.

This law is another step away from all of that, another step toward Federal centralization and the monopolizing of criminal policy in this country. I could not let this go and could not let this pass without making that abundantly clear once again.

I yield the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank Senator THOMPSON for his consistency and for the remarks he just made. I don't know that it will sway the vote, but it is certainly worth contemplating what he just said.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—H.R. 4635

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, after extensive collaboration with Senator DASCHLE, we have come to this consensus which we believe is in the best interests of all concerned.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 801, H.R. 4635, the HUD-VA appropriations bill, on Thursday at 9:30 a.m., the committee substitute be agreed to, one amendment which will be offered by Senator BOND and Senator MIKULSKI be immediately agreed to, and the bill time be limited to the following:

Fifteen minutes under the control of Senator MCCAIN;

Five minutes under the control of Senator KYL;

Ten minutes equally divided between the subcommittee chairman and ranking minority member;

Ten minutes equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the full committee.

I further ask unanimous consent that there be one amendment in order by Senator DASCHLE, or his designee, regarding the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill, and following the offering of that amendment there be 10 minutes for debate to be equally divided in the usual form, and no amendments be in order to the amendment.

I further ask unanimous consent that following the vote relative to the Byrd amendment, Senator BOXER be recognized to offer up to two first-degree amendments relative to environmental dredging, drinking water regulations, and Clean Air Act area designation, and there be up to 30 minutes of debate on each amendment to be equally divided in the usual form, with no other amendments in order, and the amendments not be divisible.

I further ask unanimous consent that following disposition of the amendments just described, the bill be advanced to third reading and passage occur, all without any intervening action or debate.

I further ask unanimous consent that the votes just described occur beginning at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday and there be 2 minutes before each vote for explanation.

I further ask unanimous consent that following the vote, the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate, those conferees being the entire subcommittee, including Senators STEVENS and BYRD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—H.R. 4516

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that immediately following the vote on the adoption of the HUD-VA bill on Thursday, the motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which the conference report to accompany H.R. 4516 was not agreed to be immediately agreed to, and the vote occur on the conference report immediately, without any intervening action or debate.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 4733 VETO MESSAGE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the veto message with respect to the conference report accompanying H.R. 4733 be considered as having been read, printed in the RECORD and spread in full upon the Journal, and the message then be referred to the Appropriations Committee.

Before the Chair grants this request, I would like to say to my colleagues

that, unfortunately, the Senate does not have the votes to override this veto. I still believe strongly that the energy and water appropriations conference report should not have been vetoed and that there is a real threat of danger as a result of the provisions that are in controversy. The vote in the Senate was 57-37, which is a very strong vote. But at this point it appears there certainly would not be sufficient votes to override the President's veto.

I regret the veto. The Senate needs to proceed now to complete these appropriations bills, and therefore we have had to go through the process as just be outlined in these previous unanimous consent requests. Therefore, this consent addresses the immediate concern of the veto message entering the Senate Chamber.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, while Senator DASCHLE is here, he may want to make comments. I thank him again for working to help get this agreement worked out, as Senator REID certainly has been helpful, and Senator BOND, chairman of the committee, and Senator MIKULSKI, ranking member of the HUD-VA appropriations subcommittee; they have done good work.

As a result of these agreements, we will be able to act tomorrow on the HUD-VA appropriations bill, the energy and water appropriations bill, as will be modified to put in the agreed-to language with regard to section 103, and we also will then have the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill included in this process.

We will continue to work after this vote at 4:30 to get an agreement with regard to the time and a vote on the Defense authorization bill. We are working through the difficulties which are probably on this side; maybe on both sides. We will try to work that out, and also a time when a vote will occur on the Agriculture appropriations conference report.

I will have to communicate some more. I thought it important to go ahead and get these agreements lined up.

I remind Members, we have two votes scheduled at 4:30.

Mr. DASCHLE. I commend the majority leader for his work in reaching this agreement and compliment and thank Members on both sides of the aisle.

We have to be realists as we try to finish our work at the end of this session. Being realists means we don't get it exactly the way we want it. Obviously, many Members have serious problems about the way we are proceeding. We, nonetheless, realize we have to get the work done. While it may not be pretty, it will get the work done. That is ultimately what we are here to do.

To clarify what this agreement does with regard to some of the concerns

that some Members have raised, first and foremost, this allows for the completion of the Treasury-Postal bill because we address the IRS concern raised by the administration. We are very pleased that issue has been resolved and we are now able to go forth at least from the point of view of the administration. Senator BYRD had the same concern I did about procedure. This allows us technically to have taken up TPO on the floor, as Senator BYRD has strongly suggested we do and as some Members proposed be done. This allows us to do that, and we will do it in concert with the consideration of HUD-VA.

Obviously, as I think everyone now knows, section 103 of the energy and water bill is very problematic for the administration and for some of us. This understanding takes out section 103.

We have accommodated a lot of the concerns in reaching this agreement. We will have a couple of amendments offered by Senator BOXER who has concerns about the HUD-VA bill. This reaches the level of understanding we have with regard to her concerns, as well.

Clearly, this is a compromise taking into account both the procedural as well as the substantive concerns many Senators have had on both sides of the aisle, and it accommodates those concerns as best we can under these circumstances.

Again, I end where I began by complimenting the majority leader, by expressing my appreciation for his work in trying to reach an accommodation of some of these issues. I hope we can do more on other bills that are yet to be considered.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. While the two leaders are on the floor, there is so much acrimony on the Senate floor, and there will be more in the future. At a time when we have accomplished a great deal procedurally, you two should be commended. It has been difficult to arrive at this point. This is one of the times where we worked with some cooperation. There will be more difficulties before the session ends, but the two leaders are to be commended for the work done today.

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

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

VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AND VIOLENCE PROTECTION ACT OF 2000—CONFERENCE REPORT—Continued

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I know under the unanimous consent agreement Senator THOMPSON would have the time until 4:30 when it was

agreed the vote would be set. I ask unanimous consent to speak on the sex trafficking bill for up to 5 minutes.

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

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, rather than not using the time, I thought it wise to go ahead and use this time to visit about this important vote that will be taking place. There may be some people who are just now focusing on what is happening.

We have a base bill with sex trafficking. The Violence Against Women Act is the base of the bill, and it is put together in an overall piece of legislation with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, Aimee's law, Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act, and the 21st Amendment Enforcement Act. This is the combined bill soon to be voted on.

A point of order has been raised and ruled against by the Chair, and we will be voting on appealing the ruling of the Chair. I hope my colleagues will vote in favor of the Chair and we will go to the final bill for a vote. To vote against the Chair and subtract Aimee's law, sends the bill back to the House, and we don't have time to get this done.

This is an important day for women and children subject to violence, both domestically and abroad. It is an important day that this body is going to follow the House and put in place needed protections for people, women and children, subject to this violence, both domestically and abroad.

It is an important day for those who have worked as advocacy groups and defenders of the defenseless, including people trafficked across international borders, with their papers burned and told: You owe.

This is important also for women in abusive relationships, physically abusive, who need help.

This addresses both of those issues. I think it is important this body, in the waning days of this session, go out with a strong statement that we are there with you; we are supporting those who are victimized in these situations, domestically and abroad. We are speaking out for those who, in many cases, have no voice.

I can still see the girls I met in Nepal who were trafficked at 11 and 12 years of age, coming back to their home country and to their villages, 16, 17 years of age, in terrible condition, having been subjected to sex trafficking, beaten by brothel owners, in some cases locked up at night, raped repeatedly, and told, "You have to work this off; I own you," and then released to go home when they contract horrible diseases. In not all cases that works that way, but in too many cases it does work that way.

This body is speaking today. We are speaking on behalf of those who are so defenseless in these particular types of situations.

I want to recognize some people who have been particularly helpful on this. Senator LEAHY has worked very hard

with us on this, through many of the issues he has had on this. Senator WELLSTONE and I have worked on the trafficking. Senator BIDEN and Senator HATCH have worked on the Violence Against Women Act. This has been a true bipartisan and bicameral effort. CHRIS SMITH and SAM GEJDENSON in the House, Republican and Democrat, have worked with us to get this through. Chairman HYDE of the Judiciary Committee in the House has worked to get this on through. My staff, Karen Knudsen and Sharon Payt, have worked very hard. The outside advocacy groups range from Gloria Steinem to Chuck Colson in support of this legislation, saying this is something we need to speak out about; this is something we need to do.

I want to recognize the leader, TRENT LOTT. In these waning hours of the session, there are about 150 different bills that want to get to the floor. Senator LOTT has said this one is coming to the floor. Not only did he say it is coming to the floor, he gave us all day on October 11 to be able to carry this on through and get this through. This is precious time. It could have been spent and was being pushed to be spent on a number of different issues. Instead, Senator LOTT said, no; we will go ahead and let this issue come forward. We will take the whole day debating it. People can be heard on this particular issue. Then we will have two votes at the end of the day.

That is a great statement on his part in support of women and children who are subject to these horrifying conditions, both domestically and abroad. I applaud his effort and his leadership and his work getting this done.

I just came from a press conference with Senator SANTORUM on Aimee's law, an important piece of legislation concerning what happened to Aimee Willard, an act perpetrated by a person was released early from prison in Nevada and went to Pennsylvania. She was an all-American lacrosse player at George Mason University. She was traveling, her car was taken over by this guy who had been previously convicted and released early out of a Nevada prison, then he takes her, kidnaps her, rapes her, and murders her.

This is legislation that does not federalize crimes, but it encourages States to step up and say: If a person is convicted of one of these crimes, keep him in for at least 85 percent of what he was sentenced for; or if they go to another State and commit this recidivism crime, then the State that has to prosecute and incarcerate this person, the criminal who did this, they can get part of the Federal moneys from the State that let the person go free early.

I think it is a sensible approach to try pushing this on forward. It is a good piece of legislation. It is something that deserves passage. Here in these waning hours of this session, I would just say I am very pleased to be a part of this body that would stand up