

It is time the Congress stopped being blamed for everything.

If the American people understood where we stand on my bill, that the President got the full sum he asked for, there is a difference in priorities—I ask unanimous consent for 2 more minutes, Mr. President.

Mr. DORGAN. Reserving the right to object—and I shall not object—I would like to observe, I have yielded to requests on that side and I hope the Senator will yield at the end of his time.

Mr. SPECTER. I will be glad to yield at the end of my time, limited as it is.

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

Mr. SPECTER. If the American people knew we met the President's figure of \$106.2 billion but we think the National Institutes of Health ought to have a priority—we have raised them \$1.7 billion more than the President, we have given more money to special education—I think if the American people knew that, they would say those are more important priorities.

If the American people knew that we want to retain local control so school boards can spend the money the way they see fit on the local level if they do not think the President's priorities are preferable, that they prefer local control to a Washington, DC, bureaucratic straitjacket, then we could have that decision.

But this Senator is not at all concerned about 1-day continuing resolutions. I am prepared to stay here a lot longer than is the President.

I yield for a question.

Mr. DORGAN. I thank the Senator for yielding for a brief question. If the Senator's contention is there was enough money in the budget this spring for domestic discretionary, why, then, are people on his side discussing the need to increase the budget caps, the spending caps?

Mr. STEVENS. If I may answer that, with regard to the bill on which we are about ready to vote, I, as chairman, delegated some of the 302(b) allowance to Health and Human Services to VA-HUD and to the other bill, energy and water. It is because of the limits that were set in the 1997 act, not just the budget resolution. We have not lifted them to the point to have enough money to pass this bill.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, might I ask if everybody will yield back the time so we can get on with the votes?

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I make a point of order a quorum is not present.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, there are other pressing matters. It is an interesting discussion that might go on after the vote.

Mr. DOMENICI. Regular order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Time has expired.

The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding now we are going to vote on VA-HUD. After that, because of one of the senior Members, and others, we

are going to have to wait until the papers get here before we vote on the CR. I understand they should be here momentarily. I am sure by the time the vote is closed they will be here, so I hope we can go to the vote now on VA-HUD.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry: Isn't there an order to vote back to back on these bills?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is an understanding that will occur. That will be the case.

Mr. STEVENS. Is it the order, the unanimous consent agreement?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Time has expired on both measures, and votes will occur on both measures back to back.

Mr. STEVENS. Let's run the first one here.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

VOTE ON H.R. 4635 CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, have the yeas and nays been ordered on the VA-HUD conference report?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. They have not.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the conference report. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. McCAIN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 85, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 278 Leg.]

YEAS—85

Abraham	Brownback	Craig
Akaka	Bryan	Crapo
Ashcroft	Bunning	Daschle
Baucus	Burns	DeWine
Bayh	Byrd	Dodd
Bennett	Campbell	Domenici
Biden	Chafee, L.	Dorgan
Bingaman	Cleland	Durbin
Bond	Cochran	Edwards
Boxer	Collins	Enzi
Breaux	Conrad	Fitzgerald

Frist	Lincoln	Sarbanes
Gorton	Lott	Schumer
Gregg	Lugar	Sessions
Hagel	Mack	Shelby
Harkin	McConnell	Smith (NH)
Hatch	Mikulski	Smith (OR)
Hollings	Miller	Snowe
Hutchinson	Moynihan	Specter
Jeffords	Murkowski	Stevens
Johnson	Murray	Thomas
Kennedy	Nickles	Thompson
Kerrey	Reed	Thurmond
Kohl	Robb	Torricelli
Landrieu	Roberts	Warner
Lautenberg	Rockefeller	Wellstone
Leahy	Roth	Wyden
Levin	Santorum	

NAYS—8

Allard	Gramm	Kyl
Feingold	Grassley	Voinovich
Graham	Inhofe	

NOT VOTING—7

Feinstein	Inouye	McCain
Grams	Kerry	
Helms	Lieberman	

The conference report was agreed to.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank the chairman of the committee and the ranking member, Senator MIKULSKI, for the work they have done on this bill. It has been a long process, and they both have done excellent work. We appreciate their leadership.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 2415 CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the conference report containing the bankruptcy bill, H.R. 2415, and the conference report be considered as having been read.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WELLSTONE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION TO PROCEED TO S. 2557

Mr. LOTT. I now withdraw my motion to proceed to S. 2557 regarding America's dependency on foreign oil.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right.

BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT OF 2000—CONFERENCE REPORT

MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I move to proceed to the conference report containing the bankruptcy reform bill, H.R. 2415, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll. Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. McCAIN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 89, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 279 Leg.]

YEAS—89

Abraham	Enzi	Mikulski
Akaka	Feingold	Miller
Allard	Frist	Moynihan
Ashcroft	Gorton	Murkowski
Baucus	Graham	Nickles
Bayh	Gramm	Reed
Bennett	Grassley	Reid
Biden	Gregg	Robb
Bingaman	Hagel	Roberts
Bond	Harkin	Rockefeller
Boxer	Hatch	Roth
Breaux	Hollings	Santorum
Brownback	Hutchinson	Sarbanes
Bryan	Hutchison	Schumer
Bunning	Inhofe	Sessions
Byrd	Jeffords	Shelby
Campbell	Johnson	Smith (NH)
Chafee, L.	Kennedy	Smith (OR)
Cleland	Kerrey	Snowe
Cochran	Kohl	Specter
Collins	Kyl	Stevens
Conrad	Landrieu	Thomas
Craig	Lautenberg	Thompson
Daschle	Leahy	Thurmond
DeWine	Levin	Torricelli
Dodd	Lincoln	Voinovich
Domenici	Lott	Warner
Dorgan	Lugar	Wellstone
Durbin	Mack	Wyden
Edwards	McConnell	

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Fitzgerald

NOT VOTING—10

Burns	Helms	McCain
Crapo	Inouye	Murray
Feinstein	Kerry	
Grams	Lieberman	

The motion was agreed to.

BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT OF 2000—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate on the bill H.R. 2415, an Act to enhance security of United States missions and personnel overseas, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate, and agree to the same with an amendment, and the Senate agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The report was printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of October 11, 2000.)

NATIONAL ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2000—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. I now move to proceed to S. 2557, regarding America's dependence on oil.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is debatable.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 114

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent when the Senate receives from the House the continuing resolution, the resolution be immediately considered, advanced to third reading and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, all without intervening action, motion, or debate.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, then, the Senate will have conducted its last vote for the day. We will adjourn shortly, although I understand there is one bill that is going to be taken up with some brief debate, and also there will be some debate on the bankruptcy issue. The Senate will not be in session on Friday, but the appropriations negotiators and others who are negotiating some policy decisions will be meeting tomorrow and throughout the weekend, if necessary.

The Senate will be in session on Monday, and I expect that there will be a period for morning business. Unless some procedural step is necessary regarding the bankruptcy bill, I do not expect any further announcements with regard to the schedule.

The Senate will next be in session after that on Tuesday. Therefore, votes could occur on Tuesday in an effort to wrap up the session of Congress. We do have four appropriations bills that need to be completed, and, one way or another, we also are looking at a tax package and, of course, bankruptcy, with a vote on cloture if necessary.

Later on, either tomorrow or Monday, we will notify Members jointly as to exactly when votes could be expected, but it will depend on when agreements are reached, when the conference reports are filed, and when the House acts because I think in each of these four instances the House would have to act first. We will move on the bankruptcy, depending on what is happening on these appropriations bills and the tax package.

MORNING BUSINESS

I now ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period for morning

business with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WELLSTONE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, my understanding is we are on the bankruptcy bill, is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. No. We are on a motion to proceed to S. 2557.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I withdraw my objection.

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

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if the Senator from Minnesota will withhold for a moment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant minority leader.

Mr. REID. I wanted to ask the majority leader a couple of questions. I say to my friend, as he knows, there is some angst over here as to whether or not the people, especially from the West, have to travel back here on Tuesday.

We will have to know Monday night; otherwise, Senators have to catch planes early Tuesday morning to get back on time.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I say to Senator REID, we had to make a decision last Monday. Unfortunately, we did not immediately communicate with both sides of the aisle because it was late in the afternoon. We need to be in close touch. I will be here Monday. I know the Senator from Nevada will be. Once we see when the reports are filed and when these votes will be ready, we will be prepared to notify everybody as to when they can expect a vote.

It appears to me it is possible we could have one or more of these conference reports ready late Tuesday, but if it becomes apparent the House is not going to get it until late Tuesday or even late in the afternoon, we may want to make a conscious decision to go ahead and announce Monday those votes may not occur until Wednesday.

I think we need another day or perhaps the weekend to see if these agreements can be worked out between the House and Senate Republicans and Democrats and the White House and get the reports filed. It is impossible to say right now. I assume all Senators would like to get this work completed as soon as possible. If we can do it Tuesday and Wednesday, I presume that is preferable, but if it is going to be Wednesday or Wednesday/Thursday, then obviously Senators want to know that. I will stay in close touch with Senator REID, and we will make those decisions and those announcements jointly, not later than Monday afternoon.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to my friend, if we knew sometime late Monday afternoon, 4, 5, even 6 o'clock, we could