

my best to be helpful. Certainly on the Appropriations Committee, if there is an appropriations item, as always, I will support it. Amtrak comes to West Virginia. It comes 3 days a week. I wish it came more often.

But I support Amtrak as much as anybody in this Chamber. We don't have large airports in West Virginia; all we have is highways. We certainly are grateful for and certainly very supportive of the limited amount of rail transportation we have. We used to have the Hilltopper; we used to have the Mountaineer in West Virginia. I have been a supporter of the Cardinal longer than I can remember.

So Senators may be reassured that I shall do everything I can within my power next year to be helpful.

The principal cosponsors, Mr. LAUTENBERG and Mr. BIDEN, made a strong case for the importance of this vital legislation. It will be a central part of our efforts to ensure that our Amtrak system not only is maintained but is also able to make necessary improvements in the future to ensure its continued success.

I thank all Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have been here, not as many years by far as most everyone on this floor right now, but it is not often that you see the two leaders and our longtime leader Senator BYRD, stand and say they will support a piece of legislation. I have never seen it happen before. I think this is to show the intensity of the feelings of the people who support this legislation, led by Senator JOE BIDEN. So I am really pleased it appears at this stage that the three leaders, Senator LOTT, Senator DASCHLE, and Senator BYRD, have agreed to do this.

I was at lunch today with Senator HOLLINGS, who is the ranking Democrat on the committee of jurisdiction that may have something to do with this, the Commerce Committee. He said he will do everything he can to move this matter along. I know I will. Senator SPECTER, on the other side of the aisle, said he would do anything possible to move this along. This is a rare occasion in the Senate that you see this much support for a piece of legislation.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I could ask my colleagues to defer just a moment, Senator DASCHLE and I would like to get one more unanimous consent agreement in. Then I would like to yield to the Senators who are on their feet.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, may I, with all due respect, remind the majority leader and the President that I yielded time based on the fact that I would recover the floor.

Mr. LOTT. There is no question about it. I thought perhaps the Senator would want to comment, too, on what has just transpired. But I do want to include in the RECORD the fact that Senator STEVENS also has assured our

colleagues, and has reminded me again, he also commits, as chairman of the Appropriations Committee, his continued support for Amtrak.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I thank the majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. LOTT. With that, I do understand the Senate will shortly receive from the House the appropriations bill containing the final appropriations measures. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding receipt of the papers, the Senate proceed to vote immediately on adoption of the conference report and, following passage, there be 40 minutes of explanation to be equally divided between the two leaders, with 20 minutes additional under the control of Senator BYRD, 45 minutes under the control of Senator GRAHAM of Florida, and 10 minutes of Senator LOTT's time to be controlled by Senator SPECTER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I want to, before the majority leader leaves the floor, thank him.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I could confirm, the unanimous consent was agreed to?

Mr. DASCHLE. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. No objection was heard. I recognized the Senator from Delaware thinking he wished to object.

Is there objection?

Mr. BIDEN. No, I beg your pardon, I do not wish to object or seek recognition.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under parliamentary procedure, the Senator from New Jersey has the floor. He yielded it to the majority leader and the Democratic leader for the conduct of certain items of business. Following that point, Senators seeking to speak will have to receive the approval or approbation of the Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I ask the Senator to yield me a very brief time.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I thank the Chair for that recollection. I will be happy to yield to our friend from Delaware.

Mr. BIDEN. Before the majority leader leaves the floor, I want to personally thank him. I want to thank the minority leader, the Democratic leader, and I guess most of all I want to thank Senator BYRD and Senator STEVENS as well.

I have been here for 28 years. I have never once come to the floor to threaten to engage in an extended debate on a matter. I did that this morning in our caucus. I am not suggesting my colleagues responded because I did that. I am suggesting that I believed my colleagues who are on their feet felt extremely strongly about what was about to happen; that is, Amtrak cannot make it through the year 2001 and

meet the obligation that has been imposed upon it without being brought up to speed, figuratively and literally, in terms of equipment, track, and the like.

When this proposal that had 56 cosponsors and passed in another vehicle with 60-some votes and with 260-some votes in the House was not going to be included in this omnibus bill, I must tell my colleagues, I was very upset.

In light of the fact that the leadership of the Appropriations Committee of the Senate as a whole and of the Commerce Committee, at least on one side of the Commerce Committee, have indicated to me they will introduce and move rapidly, as best they can, funding for Amtrak—I will not take the time to go into what it all does and what it means—then that is good enough for me. I will withdraw any attempt to delay consideration of this final bill.

Also, I know Senator MOYNIHAN and Senator LAUTENBERG are leaving. Senator LAUTENBERG has been Mr. Amtrak. Senator LAUTENBERG, since he has been here, in large part because of his disposition and in no small part because of the particular position of authority he occupied on the Appropriations Committee, has been—I ride a train every day and people say to me: You know, JOE, thanks for defending Amtrak.

I say: No, don't thank me, call Senator LAUTENBERG. I literally say that because it is true.

Also on the floor is a Senator who is Mr. Transportation. He has given us all a lesson, as only he can, for the past 18 years on the necessity of Amtrak not merely in the Northeast corridor, but there is no alternative in this Nation to not have a mass transit interstate system.

I want everybody to understand—again, I will put something in the RECORD; I won't take the time now—this is not just parochially important to the Senators from Delaware, New Jersey, Vermont, Massachusetts, all of whom are on the floor. This is important to Florida; it is important to the Southeast corridor; it is important to Oregon, Washington, Nevada. This is the only alternative we have.

It seems to me, after discussion with the men I have named today—the distinguished Senator from West Virginia, the Senator from Mississippi, the Senator from North Dakota, and others—that we are all singing from the same hymnal now. There seems to be for the first time in my recollection, I say to my friend from New York who is standing, a genuine acknowledgment that there is no transportation scheme in America that will serve America without a major component of it being a rapid transit interstate system for passengers.

I am looking forward to this being the first bipartisan effort next year. I sincerely hope the incoming President will understand our regional needs.

I conclude by saying I thought federalism was about one section of the

Nation helping other sections of the Nation that, in fact, had needs but needed additional assistance. There would be no water flowing in Arizona were it not for the people of Massachusetts, the people of New York, the people of New Jersey, Delaware, and other States subsidizing that water extensively to the tune of probably somewhere above \$16 billion over time, and we should do that.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. The Arizona project.

Mr. BIDEN. We should do that. I get the feeling—maybe because it is the Christmas season and I want to believe it—there is a growing recognition that rail service in our neck of the woods, as well as other parts of the country, are as essential to our interests as water is to the far west. It is as essential.

I thank my colleagues for their commitment and absolutely close by saying to Senator BYRD that I appreciate the fact that he understands, maybe better than anyone in this place, when another colleague cares about an issue that he believes is absolutely indispensable for his region. I thank him for acknowledging that.

I thank him for his—it is no new commitment; he has always been committed to Amtrak—acknowledgment of that and for his continued pledge of commitment to Amtrak. With this combination of the majority leader, the Democratic leader, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, and the ranking member of the Commerce Committee, if we cannot get it done, then shame on us.

I thank all of my colleagues. Sorry to have taken so much time, but as my colleagues said all day, this is a big, big, big deal to me personally, to my State, and I think to the Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the current situation, the Senator from New Jersey has the floor. He has yielded to the majority leader and the Democratic leader to conduct business. If they are through with their business, the Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, with their indulgence, we do have a couple more consent requests, plus we may need to modify the earlier agreement.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I am happy to yield to the majority leader for conducting further business provided, of course, that the recognition continues. I thank the Presiding Officer for being so careful in his statement.

PROVIDING FOR SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 106TH CONGRESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the adjournment resolution calling for a sine die adjournment of the 106th Congress just received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 446) providing for the sine die adjournment of the second session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 446) was agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 446

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Friday, December 15, 2000, Saturday, December 16, 2000, or Sunday, December 17, 2000, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it shall stand adjourned sine die, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution; and that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, December 15, 2000, Saturday, December 16, 2000, or Sunday, December 17, 2000, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it shall stand adjourned sine die, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and Senate, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the technical continuing resolution, H.J. Res. 133.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 133) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be read the third time 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.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 133) was read the third time and passed.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I have one further clarification. It seems there is an objection, notwithstanding the re-

ceipt of the papers, that we have a vote and then go to debate, but we are working on an arrangement that will allow us to proceed with debate and get some certainty about how the vote will be dispensed with. We should be able to get that clarified in a few minutes. I would hate to ask the Senator to yield again in a few minutes, but in view of the importance of the issue, I might do that. For now, that is all the business Senator DASCHLE and I have.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from New Jersey has the floor.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I thank the Chair. I yield 3 minutes to the Senator from Massachusetts, again with it understood that I retain the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from New Jersey. He is very gracious in doing so. I know he wants to make some important comments that summarize his 18 years of work and commitment on this issue. He is generous to allow us to intervene.

I join in thanking the majority leader and the minority leader, Senator DASCHLE, Senator REID, particularly Senator BYRD and Senator STEVENS for responding to the request of a number of us from our region. I thank Senator BIDEN and Senator LAUTENBERG for their leadership again on this issue.

There was a lot of passion in our caucus earlier this afternoon, and the minority leader listened to all of us very carefully. Our caucus, I must say, was united in its commitment to the notion that those of us who cared about this issue needed to have some kind of response on the floor that indicated where we will go. I am grateful for this response.

The commitment on the floor openly, as it has been given, to proceed as we will proceed, particularly from the distinguished ranking member of the Appropriations Committee and the chairman, is as good a commitment as one can get in the Senate.

We have 56 sponsors of this legislation today in the Senate. With the new Senators coming in, I am absolutely confident we will have more than 60 sponsors of this legislation. I look forward to building on the legacy of Senator MOYNIHAN and Senator LAUTENBERG and completing what is absolutely essential for this country, which is a rail system of which the Nation can be proud.

I am very grateful to all those who have made this effort. I particularly say about the Senator from New Jersey and the Senator from New York, the two of them will be so missed with respect to their leadership and the vision they have expressed with respect to transportation issues as a whole, but particularly for those of us in the Northeast, what voices they have been in the Senate with respect to their vision for how we can more inexpensively and capably move people from here to