

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

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 129 Leg.]

YEAS—97

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

NOT VOTING—3

Domenici Moynihan Rockefeller

The amendment (No. 3428) was agreed to.

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

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3426

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be agreed to, which is the committee substitute for the House bill, and the amendment be treated as original text for purposes of further amendment, and that no points of order be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH of Oregon). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3426) was agreed to.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes the Transportation bill at 9:45 a.m. in the morning, Senator VOINOVICH be recognized to offer his amendment regarding passenger rail flexibility.

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

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, in light of this agreement, on behalf of the leader, I announce that there will be no further rollcall votes tonight.

It is the hope of the managers—Senator LAUTENBERG and I—that this bill will be passed by 1 p.m. on Thursday, tomorrow. All Members have a lot in this Transportation appropriations bill. I hope all Members who have amendments will come forward. A lot

of Members are already coming. We are working them out. If we work together, I think we can work this out tomorrow.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I thought there was supposed to be a time agreement for a vote on the amendment of Senator VOINOVICH. Was that not in the agreement?

Mr. SHELBY. It is not.

Mr. STEVENS. I hope early in the morning we can get an agreement for a specific time so we can move this bill forward. The other body is working on the Health and Human Services bill. We have already reported that bill out of committee. We were able to take that bill up. We also have the foreign assistance bill that will be ready to be taken up on the floor as soon as the House passes it. I hope we will be able to finish this bill early tomorrow afternoon.

I thought we were going to get an agreement to vote on the Voinovich amendment early tomorrow morning. But I hope we will be able to meet early in the morning and get some timeframe on that amendment. I hope my friends on the other side will agree with that.

We are coming in at 9:45, and the Voinovich amendment will be the first amendment. But there is no time limit to vote on it.

We are hopeful we can finish this bill sometime early in the afternoon, at 1 o'clock or so, go back to the Defense bill, and be ready to take up another appropriations bill on Friday morning, the next day.

I hope the parties will consider doing what we did in the Defense bill and set a time limit for when these amendments that were listed in this agreement will be filed tomorrow so we can take a look at them and, hopefully, work many of them out without a vote.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to the managers of the bill and to the chairman of the full committee that on our side, in regards to the Transportation appropriations bill, we believe we are in very good shape to move forward just as quickly as the other side. We had one amendment we were concerned about that would take a lot of time, but the Senator stated that it will not be offered.

We are at a point where we think, if the Voinovich amendment doesn't take very long, we can finish this fairly quickly.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

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

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

BROADBAND TAX INCENTIVE BILL

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise to today in support of a bill I introduced last week along with my friend Senator MOYNIHAN and 26 other members on both sides of the aisle. The bill, S. 2698, the Broadband Internet Access Act of 2000, crates tax incentives for the deployment of broadband (high-speed) Internet services to rural, low-income, and residential areas.

This bill will ensure that all Americans gain timely and equitable access to the Internet over current and future generations of broadband capability.

The legislation provides graduated tax credits to companies that bring qualified telecommunication capabilities to targeted areas. It grants a 10-percent credit for expenditures on equipment that provide a bandwidth of 1.5 million bits per second (mbps) to subscribers in rural and low-income areas, and a 20-percent credit for delivery of 22 mbps to these customers and other residential subscribers.

This bill has been endorsed by a number of organizations, including Bell Atlantic, MCI/Worldcom, Corning Incorporated, the National Telephone Cooperative Association, the Association for Local Telecommunications Services, the United States Distance Learning Association, and the Imaging Science and Information Systems Center at Georgetown University Medical Center.

Mr. President, in a few short years, the Internet has grown exponentially to become a mass medium used daily by over 100 million people worldwide. The explosion of information technology has created opportunities undreamed of by previous generations. In my home state of Montana, companies such as Healthdirectory.com and Vanns.com are taking advantage of the global markets made possible by the stunning reach of the Internet.

The pace of broadband deployment to rural America must be accelerated for electronic commerce to meet its full potential, however. Broadband access is an important to our small businesses in Montana as water is to agribusiness.

I am aware of all of the recent discussion regarding the "digital divide" and I am very concerned that the pace of broadband deployment is greater in urban than rural areas. However, there is some positive and exciting news on this front as well. The reality on the ground shows that some of the "gloom and doom" scenarios are far from the case. By pooling their limited resources, Montana's independent and cooperative telephone companies are doing great things. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

AGRICULTURAL RISK PROTECTION ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, recently Congress passed the Agricultural Risk Protection Act. This legislation provides reform for the Federal Crop Insurance Program, economic assistance to farmers, and the establishment of new, innovative programs to assist the agricultural community. One of the innovative programs established in the bill is what I have termed the Agriculture Marketing Equity Capital Fund.

The Agriculture Marketing Equity Capital Fund will assist independent grain and livestock producers nationwide develop new value-added agricultural opportunities. Independent producers will use these funds to develop business plans, feasibility studies, and business ventures with packers and processors.

While I was able to garner the support of many of the nation's largest commodity organizations, I met fierce opposition from the American Meat Institute's Washington lobbyists. My floor statement during the debate over the crop insurance conference report was highly critical of their efforts. It is not my intent to attack the individual members of AMI, but I believe it is important that they understand my position.

AMI's Washington lobbyists misrepresented the provision. A story written within "Inside AMI" recently explained:

Senator Chuck Grassley pushed conferees to provide for a \$35 million Agriculture Marketing Equity Capital Fund. The proposal was yet another attempt to fund an NPPC proposal that seeks to secure government funding to establish a national pork cooperative and use government funds to buy, build or purchase equity in a pork slaughter and processing facility.

This a blatant misrepresentation of the facts. My provision never had anything to do with publicly financing the construction of a pork plant.

My staff did contact AMI's Washington lobbyists who explained the opposition was based on the possibility of government-funded competition and specifically that funds would be used to develop a plant. In good faith, my staff offered AMI's Washington lobbyists an opportunity to offer their input on the legislation.

I cannot guarantee that AMI's input would have been acceptable to me, but we will never know if a mutually beneficial position could have been established because my office never received a response. I have been a friend of the agriculture community for a very long time. I am disappointed and dismayed by the way this was handled by AMI's Washington representatives.

As I promised in my crop insurance floor statement, I am today asking unanimous consent to place a list of AMI's member companies in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Once again, I'm not saying that every processor or packer on this list knew what AMI's

Washington lobbyists were doing, but I hope to inform every member what happened and why independent producers won't have the funds to reach out to processors in joint ventures and receive working capital to help everyone survive and thrive. I am also enclosing the text of a letter I recently sent to AMI's members.

It is my hope that members of AMI see the value of my efforts and work with me in the future to improve the plight of the independent producer. Providing stability to family farmers through joint ventures with AMI's membership would only serve to benefit both parties in the long-run.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JUNE 9, 2000.

DEAR AMI MEMBER: I am writing to express how disappointed I am with your Washington lobbyists and their efforts to misrepresent and thus undermine my attempts to help American farmers.

You may have read a recent "Inside AMI" story claiming that, "Senator Grassley pushed conferees to provide for a \$35 million Agriculture Marketing Equity Capital Fund. The proposal was yet another attempt to fund a National Pork Producers Council proposal that seeks to secure government funding to establish a national pork cooperative and use government funds to buy, build or purchase equity in a pork slaughter and processing facility."

This claim is a blatant misrepresentation of the facts. The truth is that the provision your lobbyists were attacking had nothing to do with publicly financing the construction of a pork plant. These funds are intended to be used by independent grain and livestock producers to develop business plans, feasibility studies, and business ventures with packers and processors. While some may believe the truth is no longer relevant in Washington, D.C., that attitude will be given no quarter in dealings with me.

My staff reached out to your's to make certain they understood the error in their representations of my proposal, as well as to request alternative suggestions. No response ever came. Unfortunately, many of my colleagues were misled by your staff, and my proposal was gutted.

I wanted you to hear directly from me because I have had a long and positive working relationship with many AMI members over the years and I hope that this can be the case in the future. I believe, however, that it would be appropriate to investigate for yourself the concerns I have raised about your Washington representatives.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
U.S. Senator.

P.S.: I have included a copy of my floor statement for your review.

AMERICAN MEAT INSTITUTE MEMBERS

Bar-S Foods Co.
Birchwood Foods—Division of
Kenosha Beef Int'l.
Burke Corporation
Coleman Natural Products, Inc.
DeAns Pork Products
Devault Foods
Diamond Stainless
Evans Food Products Company
Fresh Mark, Inc.
E.W. Knass & Sons, Inc.
F. Wardynski & Sons, Inc.
Farmlands Foods, Inc.
Foodbrands America, Inc.

Fred Usinger, Inc.
Julian Freirich Company
Greater Omaha Packing Co., Inc.
Harrington's in Vermont, Inc.
Hormel Foods Corporation
Huiskens Meats
Indiana Packers Corporation
Jac Pac Foods Ltd.
Johnsonville Foods
Kowalski Sausage Company, Inc.
Maverick Ranch Lite Beef, Inc.
MPCA, Inc.
Norbest, Inc.
Omaha Steaks, Inc.
Provimi Veal Corporation
Stevison Ham Company
Sun-Husker Foods, Inc.
Taylor Packing
Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.
Wright Brand Foods, Inc.
Certified Angus Beef Program
Foodcomm International
International Natural Sausage Casing Association
KoSa
Meat and Livestock Australia
New Zealand Meat Producers Board
Packaging Digest Magazine
The Schroeder Group
ABC Research Corporation
A.C. Legg Inc.
Advanced Instruments Inc.
AEW Thurne, Inc. Ltd.
Alfacel, Inc.
ALKAR
Amana Appliances
American Engineering Corporation
Aspen Systems
Bell-Mark Inc.
Bell Paper Box, Inc.
Bettcher Industries, Inc.
BioControl Systems, Inc.
Blentech Corporation
BOC Gases
Bolton & Menk, Inc.
Bridge Machine Co., Inc.
Bunzl Distribution USA
Carruthers Equipment Company
Carter & Burgess, Inc.
Cretel Food Equipment Inc.
Custom Metalcraft, Inc.
CVP Systems, Inc.
DAPEC, Inc./NUMAFA USA
Deltrak, Inc.
Dewied International, Inc.
The Dupps Company
Equipment Exchange Company of America
The Facility Group
The Ferrite Company
Flavex Protein Ingredients—Division of Arnhem, Inc.
FoodUSA.Com
Foss North America, Inc.
FPEC CORP of Arkansas
F.R. Drake
G.B.C-111 International, LTD.
General Machinery Corporation
GlobalFoodExchange.com
Grain Processing Corporation
Grote Company
The HACCP Consulting Group, L.L.C.
Handtmann, Inc.
Hansen-Rice, Inc.
Hantover, Inc.
Harpak, Inc.
The Haskell Co.
HDR Engineering, Inc.
Heat and Control, Inc.
Henningsen Cold Storage Company
Hollymatic Corporation
Hutchison-Hayes Separators, Inc.
Hyder North American, Inc.
Hydrite Chemical Company
IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.
International Casings Group, Inc.
J.M. Swank Company
Jem Analytical Laboratory Services
JetNet Corporation