

and tuition tax deductibility; second, estate taxes and Medicare prescription drug benefit; third, estate taxes and long-term care tax credit; next, estate taxes and Medicare off budget; next, estate taxes and retirement savings tax incentives; and, finally, estate taxes and kid savings accounts; that all first-degree amendments be subject to relevant second-degree amendments, and that there be a time limitation of 1 hour for debate, equally divided in the usual form, on all amendments.

I also say, just taking another brief minute, that at least one of our Members believes it would be appropriate that we should not be able to bring this estate tax legislation forward until we dispose of the China PNTR legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, Senator DASCHLE and I have been discussing this matter in the hope that we could work out an agreement as to how we could proceed. We had discussed the possibility of certainly a substitute being in order on the estate tax legislation. I believe the Senator from New York, Mr. MOYNIHAN, had a substitute, or others, perhaps, joining with him would have a substitute, and other related or germane amendments to that issue. We even offered the possibility of having two nongermane amendments on each side.

Our problem gets to be when you go to five or six—I don't know how many were included in that list.

Mr. REID. Six.

Mr. LOTT. Plus, if you have a substitute and then you have, let's just say, one or two related germane amendments, then you have five amendments on each side—that is 10 amendments—and even if we got a time agreement, you are talking about 12, or more, or 14 hours, which would be a minimum of 2 days.

The problem we have in July is that we now have completed six appropriations bills, meaning there are still seven we have to get done.

I hope that, at a minimum, we get five or six more done in July because they are very important bills that need to get completed so they can get in conference with the House, so they can be sent to the President, so hopefully he can sign them.

We are talking about Agriculture; Interior; Housing and Urban Development; Treasury-Postal Service; Commerce-State-Justice—these are big, important appropriations bills. We have all those we have to do in July—a 3-week period—plus we have to do the marriage penalty tax elimination.

I think there is an overwhelming desire to get that done, on both sides of the aisle, although we still disagree on how to get it done. But the Finance Committee has reported that out in a reconciliation bill. And there is a desire to do the China PNTR.

I know we don't have the time to set aside 2 whole days in the midst of all

that for the death tax. If we could just agree to a substitute and germane amendments—this is a bill that passed the House overwhelmingly. Sixty-five Democrats voted for it. Members in the House, regardless of region or race or sex, voted for it. Why does the Senate need to get into all these other non-related matters?

But I understand there are Senators on the Democratic side who wish to have a debate and votes on these other matters. I believe they will probably have an opportunity to come up on other bills before the session is out. But that is why I object at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. LOTT. Under my reservation, I yield to Senator REID.

Mr. REID. I say to my friend, I think what we have done these last 4 days shows we can move through things very quickly. There were over 150 amendments after we worked on the bill a couple days. So we probably resolved over 200 amendments in the Labor-HHS bill.

But I also say, in the short time I have been in the Senate, we have had some tax bills with hundreds of amendments and we have been able to work our way through those in some way.

As with the leader, we on this side of the aisle think there should be some change in the estate taxes. We want to do that. We are getting the same calls you are.

But I say to my friend, we would be willing to take time agreements on these amendments. I am certain we could finish the amendments in one good, long day. We would take time agreements on these amendments.

On tax bills that have traditionally been brought up in the Senate, we have not had any restrictions on them. We will agree to have some restrictions, but we think this would be appropriate.

We will be happy to have our staffs work on this during the break, and as soon as we get back, the two leaders can again talk about this. We do want to bring up the estate taxes.

Mr. BAUCUS addressed the Chair.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I may respond to that, just briefly.

After the good work that has been done, in a bipartisan way, this past week, and after having participated in the effort that was just made to complete action on the military construction appropriations conference report, it has restored my faith that anything is possible in the Senate. I hope we can continue to work to find a way to resolve this and get it considered other than through the cloture process. I am going to hold out hope until the very last minute that we can get that done.

So we will continue to work. Our staffs have been exchanging proposals, and we will continue to do that right up until the time we need to begin voting, which would be, I guess, Tuesday or Wednesday of the week we return.

Under my reservation, I yield to the Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. I thank the majority leader very much. I assure him, as a member of the Finance Committee, we definitely plan to take up some form of estate tax reform. I don't know what version it would be, but clearly that has to pass this year.

In addition, however, I do believe there is one other matter that is even more important than estate tax reform, and that is PNTR for China. It far transcends appropriations bills, marriage penalty relief, bankruptcy reform. Getting PNTR passed in July, I think, is of such urgency and is so important that I am constrained to object to any unanimous consent request that sets the schedule for July unless it also includes a time when we are going to take up PNTR. I know the leader knows that is my view. I just hope that in working with the leader, we can work out some accommodation to reach that objective.

MOTION TO PROCEED—H.R. 8

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, in light of the objections—and I do object—I now move to proceed to H.R. 8 and send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 608, H.R. 8, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to phase out the estate and gift taxes over a 10-year period:

Trent Lott, Bill Roth, Charles Grassley, Larry E. Craig, Chuck Hagel, Jeff Sessions, Pete Domenici, Strom Thurmond, Jon Kyl, Thad Cochran, Jim Bunning, Craig Thomas, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Susan M. Collins, Don Nickles, and Wayne Allard.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this cloture vote will occur on Tuesday, July 11. I will notify all Members as to the time of the vote. In the meantime, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I would say there is a strong possibility we may not need a vote on this motion to proceed.

Mr. LOTT. If I may respond, I hope we can work through that. I thought maybe that would be the case. I want to say, again, I am still hoping we can come to an agreement to have some limited number of amendments that would be offered. Then we would be able to vitiate this whole thing.

In view of the time in July, I felt I needed to go ahead and get the process moving. And we still would have that option right up until Tuesday when we come back.

Mr. REID. Under my reservation, Mr. President, I also say we have worked very closely with Senator BAUCUS and Senator MOYNIHAN in trying to come up with an alternative, and some other matters that we believe should be brought up with this piece of legislation.

For example, in 1992, under a tax bill that came before the Senate, we, on the 25th, started considering that. We had 105 amendments, and a day and a half later it was all done. That legislation was totally passed. We had a number of amendments that were even offered by our majority leader on that important legislation. There was a wide range of amendments offered dealing with dental schools, tractors, and all kinds of things.

So we can work out a way through this. I think the proposal by the minority that we take up six amendments, with time limits, is something the majority leader should take another look at.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now withdraw the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 10, 2000

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 1 p.m. on Monday, July 10, under the provisions of S. Con. Res. 125. I further ask that on Monday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that then the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4578.

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

ORDER FOR RECORD TO REMAIN OPEN

Mr. LOTT. Further, I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD remain open until 3:30 p.m. today for the submission of statements.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. For the information of all Senators, on Monday, July 10, the Senate will begin consideration of the Interior appropriations bill. We will be looking forward to having the Presiding Officer on the floor managing that important legislation. I am sure it will move expeditiously. Opening statements will be made and amendments will be offered during the day. Senators who intend to offer amendments are

encouraged to contact the bill managers during the recess in preparation for consideration of the bill. Senators should be aware that the next rolcall vote will occur on Monday, July 10, at approximately 5:30 p.m.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LOTT. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment under the provisions of S. Con. Res. 125, following the remarks of Senators BYRD, WARNER, and LEVIN.

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

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. WARNER. Before our distinguished leader departs the floor—momentarily I will propound a unanimous consent request which takes us another step forward in the authorization bill for the Armed Forces—I wish to thank the distinguished leader and, indeed, the minority leader for their tireless assistance, and that of Senator REID, and of course, Senator LEVIN. They have enabled us to move this another important step forward. I thank them on that.

VITIATION OF THE ADOPTION OF AMENDMENT NOS. 3231 AND 3418

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the adoption of amendment Nos. 3231 and 3418 of the Defense authorization bill be vitiated.

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

Mr. WARNER. To explain this, these were two gold medals. Unintentionally, the proponents of those amendments did not recognize that the Banking Committee had an important role to play. Both proponents are now working with the chairman and ranking member of the Banking Committee. In the case of Senator CLELAND, he has over 68 signatures on a gold medal for the distinguished former NATO Supreme Allied Commander, General Clark, including the signature of the Senators from Virginia and from Michigan. That request has been granted?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It has.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2549

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the only first-degree amendments remaining in order to the Department of Defense authorization bill, S. 2549, be limited to amendments that are relevant to the provisions of the bill and on the finite list of amendments in order to the bill, that these first-degree amendments be subject to relevant second-degree

amendments, provided further that the first-degree amendments must be filed at the desk by close of business Friday, June 30, 2000.

I further ask unanimous consent that it be in order for the two managers to send to the desk any packages of amendments that are relevant and from the finite list of amendments in order to the bill and that these amendments be cleared by both managers of the legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, we do not object. Quite the contrary; we thank the distinguished chairman of our committee and the leaders, both majority and minority, for their good work, and also Senator REID, who has worked so hard on this, and all the other Senators who have cooperated to make this unanimous consent agreement possible. I also thank Senator BYRD, who has been waiting very patiently, so we could dispose of this important measure.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, we thank Senator BYRD. He has been an integral part of these negotiations, together with Senator ROTH and others. I am hopeful that matter can be resolved in the future.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the unanimous consent request? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank my distinguished colleague, Senator LEVIN, who has worked with me throughout on this bill. For 22 years we have been together, and our respective chiefs of staff. It has been entirely separate, but we have achieved another milestone. Now it appears to me that we will be able to come to the Senate at a time convenient to our leadership and complete action on the annual Defense authorization bill. I believe this will be 42 consecutive times the Senate has passed this wide piece of legislation for the men and women in the Armed Forces and, indeed, the security of the Nation. I yield the floor.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I notice our staffs are smiling as well because this has been a big effort on their part. With all the years we have put in together, we will not be able to catch up to Senator BYRD, but we are going to keep using him as our role model.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the chairman and ranking member of the Armed Services Committee for the excellent work they have consistently given to this legislation, the many times they have brought it to the floor of the Senate. The distinguished Senator from Virginia, Mr. WARNER, and I worked together on several amendments. I am always happy to have his cooperation and his cosponsorship. He is a man whose heart is as stout as an Irish oak and as pure as the Lakes of Killarney.

As to the distinguished ranking member, the Bible says: Seest thou a