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Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our Father, fountain of every blessing, during this season of gratitude we pause to thank You for the gifts You have given us and all humanity. Thank You for all the beauty You have placed in our world, for the loveliness of the Earth, sea, and sky. Thank You for great art to see, great music to hear, great books of prose and poetry to read. Thank You for the nimbleness of minds and hands that enable people to find ways of defeating diseases and easing pain. Thank You for generous hearts that give to help the less fortunate. Thank You for our power to love and for the opportunities to lose ourselves in a great cause. Thank You for the ability to harness nature's forces and to make fertile the desert. Thank You for our Senators and for all who labor many hours with them for a world at peace. Thank You for our military and the courageous sacrifices of our men and women in harm's way.

Above all else, we thank You for saving us by giving us Yourself. Accept this, our sacrifice of thanksgiving and of praise.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we will get off to a quick start in the Senate. We actually left not that many hours ago, and we are making real progress in terms of moving the Nation's business forward. This will be a very busy day.

In a moment I will call up the continuing resolution which will keep Government operations funded beyond midnight tonight. We are starting that early. We are voting early this morning, in large part to get it completed here and sent to the President so it can be signed by midnight tonight.

Senator HARKIN will have an amendment which we expect to vote on at or around 9:30. After that, I will have more to say on the schedule itself. But we do have the continuing resolution, we will have the Harkin amendment, we are waiting for several pieces of legislation from the House of Representatives and several conference reports: MilCon or Military Quality of Life, Transportation TTHUD bills, the PATRIOT Act. We also have an adjournment resolution we must pass later today and several other conference-related matters.

It is going to be a very busy day. I do ask for the cooperation and patience of all Senators as we cover a lot and have a number of rollcall votes over the course of the day.

In terms of the schedule for tomorrow, or Sunday, or Monday—as the day proceeds, as soon as I have information brought to me and we determine the best way to handle that on the floor, I will be making those announcements over the course of the day.

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

Mr. FRIST. I now ask unanimous consent the Senate begin consideration of H.J. Res. 72, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ISAKSON). Is there objection?

The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I am reserving the right to object, to speak with the leader for a moment about a situation that is developing at home and one of which he is certainly aware.

I understand that the motion that has been put forward would allow the Congress to go home for approximately 30 days and to come back in the middle of December to finish our business. I wanted to ask the leader if it is his intention when we come back to press forward for the supplemental bill that the senior Senator from Mississippi, Senator COCHRAN, and others have been working on for relief for the gulf coast. It is a very important piece of legislation, and many people, individuals and businesses, large and small, have been waiting for some direct, significant funding. I wanted to ask the leader from Tennessee what his intentions are when we get back, at least as he can press the Senate and press our colleagues in the House to move that piece of legislation.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the issues the distinguished Senator from Louisiana comments on and mentions are something we take very seriously here. As she well knows, my personal commitment, the commitment of leadership on both sides of the aisle, is to address the issues. We have worked very hard, both in a personal sense and in an institutional sense. With regard to the latter, we passed 21 separate pieces of legislation that have responded to many of the immediate needs. I well recognize these needs are ongoing. We are going to need to stay on top of them, which I pledge and leadership pledges to continue to do.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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We will be coming back in December, depending on the outcome of today, in all likelihood, and we will continue to address these very important issues. Several issues we will be addressing over the course of the day as well.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I ask the leader, if I could, please, I understand, I want the leader to know, we have passed 21 pieces of legislation. I take him at his word. It has been very hard to follow as these things have moved so quickly, in some cases, and not so quickly in others. But I want to make a point and ask the leader that. Because we pass legislation does not necessarily mean it has been effective. Sometimes Congress has a way of passing legislation, but that is not any guarantee it is actually working.

As the Senator from Tennessee knows, the members of the Louisiana delegation, joined at times by members of the Mississippi delegation, have consistently said that money given to FEMA is not making its way to the hands of people in businesses. As the leader knows, the housing money has been very difficult for people to get. Shelter has been very difficult to get, housing has been very difficult to get. Many of our businesses that have applied for loans that are authorized have not yet received a response from FEMA or the Small Business Administration.

For the record, I say it is not the quantity of legislation but the quality of legislation, and that is why this supplemental Senator COCHRAN has been crafting is so important. We think this may be the first major piece of legislation that actually gets money into the hands of people who can do something with it other than having it sit in bank accounts while people are suffering and trying to get their lives back together.

I understand the Senator from Tennessee is aware of these great needs. He himself has been down to our State, and we are appreciative of that. But that is the point. If I could get a comment about the importance of the supplemental, that would be of some comfort to the people of the gulf coast.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I obviously am committed not only to what is in the supplemental, but I think we need to make it very clear to our colleagues and to the people in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, where I have personally visited very early on and have visited after that again and again, that in terms of responsiveness, we have been responsive in many ways. When I say 21 pieces of legislation, people say, What does that mean? Let me give examples. In terms of things that have been enacted or cleared for the President, we have passed the emergency supplemental, No. 1, which was \$10.5 billion in Public Law 10961. We passed another emergency supplemental for \$51.8 billion. We passed a Katrina short-term tax relief bill for \$6.1 billion; flood insurance borrowing authority, H.R. 3669, for \$2 billion; the TANF disaster relief bill for \$3 billion; the unemployed insurance provisions

for \$1.6 billion. We passed a bill for redistribution of campus student aid, another bill for Pell grant relief, another bill for the Community Disaster Loan Act, for a total of \$70.9 billion.

Those are the things that have passed the Senate and the House. If you look at the things passed by the Senate, there are another nine bills for \$9 billion: the Deficit Reduction Act, Sarbanes housing amendment, the Snowe small business amendment, the Katrina education reimbursement bill, the Baucus economic development amendment, the Byrd unemployment HHS IG amendment, the Harkin legal services amendment—all of which have been passed by the Senate, this body.

I want my colleagues and the American people to understand we are acting and we are moving. We have a lot more to do, which I think is the importance of the supplemental. The distinguished chairman, who is here on the floor, knows we are focused on it and there is going to need to be more assistance there in order to renew and rebuild and respond. This body understands the importance. We are absolutely committed to that continued support for our appropriate renewal.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. The Senator has been very patient. I realize we have to move forward. But if he would grant me a few more questions—one or two.

I understand those pieces and those packages, because of course we are following them very carefully. But I want the record to reflect that this morning, as we break, there was \$70.9 billion appropriated and \$30 billion is still sitting in a bank somewhere in a FEMA account. So we have allocated \$40 billion. I would judge from the controversies and reports that much of that money was squandered in many ways that we know, and used in an inefficient manner. But I would call to the attention of the leader that we have not passed an emergency education bill which would cover tuition for children, 370,000 children who are today displaced from the school they were in the week before Katrina and Rita. Those 370,000 children have not yet received word from this Congress if their tuition will be covered. That is not done yet.

We have not passed a comprehensive health care piece that allows people with no job, no home, no school, and no church to think that they could show up at a hospital over the holidays and get their health care covered. That has not passed yet.

We have not passed any loans to our governments in Louisiana that would allow them to operate and pay for police and fire over the holidays because the loan package we passed was inoperable because they cannot pay the money back in 3 years.

So for the record, we have no real health care relief, no significant elementary and secondary care relief, our universities are teetering on bankruptcy and closure, and our medical

schools are having difficulty. The dean of LSU Medical School took a job out of our State. It was announced this week. I don't blame him for leaving because he doesn't see any help on the way. It is one of the great medical schools in the country.

Finally, FEMA—to pour salt on the wound, to make sure we were all having just the very best Thanksgiving we could possibly have—announced that they are going to make us homeless for the holiday and has announced that on December 1, everyone who is in a shelter or a hotel in the country—they do not have an accurate number, so they do not know how many, and if they do not know how many, how are they planning to help them? But believe me, there are thousands who are now going to be put on the streets and will be homeless for the holidays.

I just tell my colleagues as respectfully as I can that when we are sitting around our tables—and I will be at a different table, and many people from Louisiana will not be at the table which they usually are to have Thanksgiving dinner. I will be at a different table, Senator LOTT will be at a different table, and perhaps Senator COCHRAN will be at a different table. But as we sit around our tables, there will be thousands and hundreds of thousands of families who have no table to pull up to. They are in shelters, they are on the street, and they are crowded into apartments that they can barely afford with no hope and no plan.

I will say it for the last time. We are not dealing with a regular hurricane. We are dealing with an unprecedented natural disaster caused by the collapse of a Federal levee system that was not invested in, not maintained, and not funded. It is a disaster for the region and for the Nation. I cannot say this more emphatically or more passionately. I have tried to be a team player. We have tried to be cooperative. We have tried every strategy. We are running out of strategies.

I want my colleagues to know that while I will allow this resolution to go forward today, if we do not come back in December and pass a robust supplemental that reflects the values of this body—not what MARY LANDRIEU wants in it, not what Louisiana thinks it deserves, although we think we are entitled to say what we deserve—that reflects the values of the men and women who serve in this body whom I know so well from having worked with them, if we don't have a supplemental and if we don't get some action on our levee system so people can have confidence to come back, and a few other emergency items that we need, we will not be going home for Christmas.

We are going home for Thanksgiving, but we will not be going home for Christmas until the people of the gulf coast understand they have a home they can go to, if not this Christmas, some Christmas soon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 72) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2672

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I call up my amendment, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN], for himself, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. KERRY, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. CARPER, Mr. KOHL, and Mr. LEAHY, proposes an amendment numbered 2672.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To increase the amount appropriated to carry out under the Community Services Block Grant Act)

At the end of the resolution, insert the following:

SEC. 2. COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT ACT.

Notwithstanding section 101 of Public Law 109-77, for the period beginning on October 1, 2005 and ending on December 17, 2005, the amount appropriated under that Public Law to carry out the Community Services Block Grant Act shall be based on a rate for operations that is not less than the rate for operations for activities carried out under such Act for fiscal year 2005.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I understand that under the order, I will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. HARKIN. I might reserve a little bit of time. I may have other colleagues who will come over to speak.

Just to refresh memories, when this continuing resolution was passed at the end of September, I came on the floor and offered an amendment that would have kept whole the Community Services Block Grant program. That is a program that administers the LIHEAP program, administers a lot of Head Start programs, Even Start programs, Older Americans Act programs, elderly transportation programs, emergency shelter programs, weatherization assistance—you get the idea. Most of the programs really help a lot of poor people in this country. Last year's level was \$636.8 million.

The amendment I offered in September would have kept the funding of the Community Services Block Grant program at that level. You might say that was a continuing resolution. A continuing resolution keeps things at last year's level. Therein lies the problem.

The House sent us a continuing resolution that said: We will continue pro-

grams at last year's level or at the level of the House budget, whichever is less. The House budget cut the Community Services Block Grants Program down to less than \$320 million. They cut it in half. That is the level it was in 1986.

I said in September that it was unfair for poor people to have to have theirs cut right away down to that level because winter was coming and you need the heating energy assistance and things like that.

At that time, at the end of September, there was a lot of talk. We couldn't accept this amendment because the House had gone out. As long as the House was out and if we changed the continuing resolution, that meant the entire House of Representatives would have to come back to Washington, DC, and do something about this. I said at the time on the floor, big deal. They came back for a lot of other things; they could come back for this, too.

Obviously, my arguments did not prevail. The amendment was defeated; whereupon, however, the chairman of the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, the Senator from Alaska, Mr. STEVENS, said that he was going to take my amendment that continues the community services block grants at last year's level and put it on the Defense appropriations bill, which he did and for which I commended him. We all thought that the Defense appropriations bill would zing through here right away. Fine.

Here we are. It is November 18, and the Defense appropriations bill has not been passed—and we don't know when; probably next month, I suppose, before the end of the year.

We have another continuing resolution. The continuing resolution expires today at midnight. We know that. The continuing resolution is the same. It is at either last year's level or the House budget level, whichever is less. That means the Community Services Block Grant program is still cut down to the level it was in 1986.

The amendment I am offering today basically says—it is the same amendment, basically—for the purposes of this continuing resolution, the community services block grant shall be based on the rate that it was last year, which is \$636.6 million.

On November 8, barely a week and a half ago, 58 Senators from both sides of the aisle cosigned a letter saying we want to keep the Community Services Block Grant Program at the Senate level, at last year's level. That is what we did in our bill, and 58 Senators a week and a half ago signed this letter to keep it at the same level. Yet today we are going to pass a continuing resolution that cuts it in half. This continuing resolution is until December 18.

There is another unique feature about the Community Services Block Grant Program that I wish to bring to the Senate's attention. Unlike a lot of

programs, such as education, for example, wherein the money goes out basically next summer, if we use that language—the lower of the House level—it doesn't mean a lot because the money is not going to go out until next summer, and we probably will fix this prior to going home for Christmas. I think. I don't know. We have had CRs going into January and into February. That is not unusual around here.

So we have a continuing resolution before us today that says until December 18, and we think it will be done by then. It may not be. I don't know how many people around here would like to bet a dollar to a dime on that one. Maybe yes; maybe no; get it done by December 18. It could go into next year.

Here we have a situation, unlike education, where the money goes out next summer, and we will fix it before then, certainly. The Community Services Block Grant program goes out quarterly. Every quarter, the money goes out and is used. That means right now we are about 7 weeks into this quarter, and the entire nationwide Community Services Block Grant program has been operating at the level of \$320 million. That is bad enough. If we extend that another month, it could be disastrous, or another 2 months, because it is not like they can draw down some money somewhere and say: We are going to get it next year, we will make up for it. They can't just go to the bank and borrow the money. They do not have it. If they don't have the money for weatherization or for Head Start programs or for low-income energy assistance programs, they just do not do it.

We have had vote after vote here when Members supported the Low-Income Energy Heating Assistance Program. It is vitally needed. But if you do not have the people to administer the program and get the goods and hire the people to administer it, what good does it do? That is what the Community Services Block Grant program does.

You may hear talk that the Community Services Block Grant program is just one part of the picture because there are State and local governments that help. That is true. There are private charities that help. That is true. That is the good thing about this program—it brings a lot of different stakeholders into play. But there is the anchor, there is the anchor of the money. If that is not there, they do not even have the people to go out and do anything.

I ask Senators to think about this. Here is a program that is widely supported; 58 Senators signed a letter a week and a half ago. We passed it in our Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee when it was on the floor at last year's level, \$636.8 million. No one talked against that. It just passed. We all supported it. As a matter of fact, if I am not mistaken, I think it was later supported by the House, even though their numbers were less. The conference report

that was rejected by the House at least had this high figure in it.

So we find ourselves in an odd situation with another continuing resolution in the dead of winter when the homeless need a lot of help, when poor people are put to the extreme in terms of buying enough food, energy to heat their homes, get clothes for their kids, finding enough money for rent, going to food banks when the food stamps run out.

Any Senator here who has been to the food banks in their State knows that the food bank demand is up over what it has been in the past because food stamps are running out about the third week of the month, and poor families are going to the food banks to get food. I say to any Senator, go to your food bank—any State, I don't care which State it is—go to your food banks, food pantries, and ask them whether the demand for food is up over what it was last year or just a few months ago. That is the program administered by the Community Services Block Grant program.

The argument that was made in September is we could not do this because the House would have to come back, and they cannot do it, la-de-da, and all that stuff. Well, the House is in session today—they may be in session tomorrow, I don't know. But they are in session today. We could pass this amendment; say, no, the one program we are going to exempt from the 50-percent cut of the House of Representatives is Community Services Block Grant program. Send it back to the House, let them bring it up and pass it and send it to the President. The argument that we could not do it because of the time pressures does not hold any longer.

This is just a matter of simple justice. If this were a program that could make up the money later on next year, it would be different. This is now. People need help now for housing, for rental assistance, food banks, heating energy assistance, Head Start, foster grandparents, rental assistance.

One of the things the Community Services Block Grant program does for people includes if they are evicted and they need someplace to stay. Think of the single mother with two or three children. The husband has left her and gone off someplace. They have been in an apartment, maybe there has been an illness in the family for which they are not covered—who knows what kind of calamities could have hit—and they find themselves evicted. They can go to the local community action agency in their area. One of the things they will do is they will find them a place to live. They will give them rental assistance to get them established and a place to live. That is what this program does. What I just described happens 10 times a day in 1,000 cities across America—100,000 times a day.

I hope we can pass this amendment. It is very simple and straightforward.

Leave the Community Services Block Grant program at last year's level. We have all said that is where we want it. We need to get that money out there. The House is in session. They can pass it and send it to the President.

How much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 6 minutes 14 seconds.

Mr. HARKIN. I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa be advised that the time continues to run.

Mr. HARKIN. How much time total?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Five minutes sixteen seconds. The Senator was originally yielded 20 minutes, and the Senator has used 14 minutes.

Mr. HARKIN. How much time on the other side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no time on the other side.

Mr. HARKIN. Parliamentary inquiry: I understand I had 20 minutes to speak and there is no time on the other side to speak on this amendment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. HARKIN. There are a couple of other points.

The amendment is a straight failure. Senators understand it. But I will point out, because of a quirk in the law, there are some States that are cut more than others.

Here is what that means. This gets a little complicated, but I think the States that are going to be voting need to know this. If the total funding for a fiscal year is less than \$345 million, then no State shall receive less than one-fourth of 1 percent. Now, last year, since we cut it back to \$320.6 million, that means there are 13 States—Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, and Wyoming—that are not cut by 50 percent; they are cut by 75 percent. Because of a quirk in the law, 13 of our smallest States have a 75-percent cut. That is what they are operating at right now in those States.

I say to the Senators from those States, this may not be knowledge to a lot of Members. I happen to know about this program because I am on both the committees that administer it, but this is a program that helps the poorest in our country.

I anticipate there may be some other reasons people do not want to vote for this, but as long as 58 Senators signed the letter a week and a half ago, as long as the House is in session, it seems to me we could vote on this and let the House do it.

As I said, this is the dead of winter. We were told at the end of September that the Defense appropriations bill would be acted upon. This amendment was included. But it has not been acted on. We are now told we have a con-

tinuing resolution until December 18, but will we really act on it by December 18? As I said, who can bet on that around here?

These are the poorest of our poor people. Can't we at least say we are going to hold them a little bit harmless in this? It is not that we are holding them harmless, we are holding them at last year's level, which means it is cut a little bit simply because of the cost-of-living increase. But to be cut 50 percent, and in 13 States to be cut by 75 percent, is grossly unfair.

Let's do the moral thing. Let's do the right thing. This is a very small matter, a small thing to do, to pass this amendment and send it to the House and have them pass it on.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the letter I discussed.

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

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, November 9, 2005.

Hon. ARLEN SPECTER,
Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
Education, Appropriations, Washington,
DC.

Hon. TOM HARKIN,
Ranking Member, Senate Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education, Appropriations,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS SPECTER AND HARKIN: We applaud the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittees (Labor HHS) for restoring funding to the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). In the face of budget constraints and competing priorities, we urge you to uphold the Senate funding level of \$637 million in negotiations with the House on H.R. 3010, the Labor-HHS Appropriations bill.

As you know, CSBG helps to strengthen communities by helping low-income individuals and families to become self-sufficient. Nearly one-fourth of Americans living in poverty receive services from CSBG grantees located in 90 percent of the nation's counties. Please enable these entities to continue their vital assistance to families and communities.

We urge you to insist on the Senate positions in CSBG, \$637 million, during final negotiations on H.R. 3010. Thank you for your continued efforts on this issue.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Grassley, Orrin G. Hatch, Olympia J. Snowe, Rick Santorum, Christopher J. Dodd, Edward M. Kennedy, Max Baucus, Jeff Bingaman, Jim Bunning, Lamar Alexander, Richard Burr, Mike DeWine, George Allen, Conrad Burns, Lincoln D. Chafee, Norm Coleman, Susan M. Collins, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Kent Conrad, James M. Jeffords, John F. Kerry, Blanche L. Lincoln, Barbara A. Mikulski, Jack Reed, John D. Rockefeller, Charles Schumer, James M. Talent, John Thune, George V. Voinovich, John W. Warner, Mark Dayton.

Richard J. Durbin, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Barbara Boxer, Maria Cantwell, Thomas R. Carper, Jon S. Corzine, Byron L. Dorgan, Dianne Feinstein, Frank R. Lautenberg, Joseph I. Lieberman, E. Benjamin Nelson, Barack Obama, Ken Salazar, Debbie Stabenow, Russell D. Feingold, Tim Johnson, Patrick J. Leahy, Carl Levin, Bill Nelson, Mark Pryor, Paul S. Sarbanes.

Mr. HARKIN. I yield back the remainder of my time and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator yields back the remainder of his time.

Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment of the Senator from Iowa.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senator was necessarily absent: the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) would vote "yea."

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

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 348 Leg.]

YEAS—46

Akaka	Durbin	Murray
Baucus	Feingold	Nelson (FL)
Bayh	Feinstein	Nelson (NE)
Biden	Harkin	Obama
Bingaman	Jeffords	Pryor
Boxer	Johnson	Reed
Byrd	Kennedy	Reid
Cantwell	Kerry	Rockefeller
Carper	Kohl	Salazar
Chafee	Landrieu	Sarbanes
Clinton	Lautenberg	Schumer
Collins	Leahy	Snowe
Conrad	Levin	Specter
Dayton	Lieberman	Wyden
Dodd	Lincoln	
Dorgan	Mikulski	

NAYS—50

Alexander	DeWine	Martinez
Allard	Dole	McCain
Allen	Domenici	McConnell
Bennett	Ensign	Murkowski
Bond	Enzi	Roberts
Brownback	Frist	Santorum
Bunning	Graham	Sessions
Burns	Grassley	Shelby
Burr	Gregg	Stevens
Chambliss	Hagel	Sununu
Coburn	Hatch	Talent
Cochran	Hutchison	Thomas
Coleman	Inhofe	Thune
Cornyn	Isakson	Vitter
Craig	Kyl	Voinovich
Crapo	Lott	Warner
DeMint	Lugar	

NOT VOTING—4

Corzine	Smith
Inoue	Stabenow

The amendment (No. 2672) was rejected.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the amendment was not agreed to.

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the third reading and passage of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, is this the continuing resolution?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, earlier this morning we had a colloquy that expressed concerns.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator will be advised that all time for debate has expired.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 30 seconds.

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

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, we had a colloquy this morning with the leader about the need to do more for the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. I am not going to ask for a record vote, and I am not going to delay the debate, but I do want to be recorded as voting "no" if we have a voice vote. It is very important to let people in this country know that our work is not yet finished. While we are breaking for the holidays, there will be many people who have no holiday table to go home to. Members of this body have worked very hard. I respect the work that each has done. We have worked in a bipartisan way to address some issues of health care, education, and housing. But just because we have done our job doesn't mean the same thing is actually happening on the other side of the Capitol.

There are still more issues that we need to find solutions for. We need to find a solution for the health care crisis along the gulf coast due to the hurricanes and subsequent levee breaches. We need to find a solution for the massive housing shortage throughout the States that Katrina and Rita whipped through. We need to find a solution for the small businesses that have been devastated and the thousands of people who have been left jobless. And we need to find a solution to building Category 5 levees and providing plenty of storm and flood protection which also means restoring our vital coastal wetlands, as they are our first line of defense. Without this protection, all our other efforts will be for naught.

We need solutions, Mr. President. We need real answers, because it is unsettling to know that while we go home to have Thanksgiving with our families, my constituents still have real problems and real needs. And so I thank you, Mr. President, for this time and for allowing me to note for the record, that I am voting no to this continuing

resolution because our job is not finished, and these vital concerns are not settled.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The joint resolution (H. J. Res. 72) was passed.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote and to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in a few moments, I will propound a unanimous consent request. In essence, what we will be doing in about an hour is having another vote on going to conference on the HHS appropriations bill. We will ask unanimous consent for that shortly and divide up the time accordingly. It will be approximately an hour from now that we will have another rollcall vote. As soon as we have the word on the unanimous consent request, I will be propounding that.

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

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

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House to accompany H. R. 3010, the Labor-HHS appropriations bill; provided further, that the Senate request a conference with the House, and that the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees. I further ask that prior to the Chair appointing the conferees, Senator SPECTER be recognized in order to make a motion to instruct the conferees on the issue of LIHEAP; provided further, that there be debate divided with Senators as follows: 10 minutes for Senator REED, 7 minutes for Senator HARKIN, 5 minutes for Senator SPECTER, 5 minutes for Senator COCHRAN. I further ask that following that time, the motion be temporarily set aside and Senator DURBIN be recognized to make a motion to instruct relating to NIH, and there be 15 minutes for debate for Senator DURBIN on that motion, and that following the use or