

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, this is a statement of an agreement that has been reached between the two leaders regarding the votes on the pending amendments.

I ask unanimous consent that at 12 o'clock on Wednesday, April 26, the Senate proceed to a vote on the pending Gregg amendment, as modified, to be followed immediately by a vote on amendment No. 3604 on the subject of border security offered by Senator REID; provided further that no second-degree amendments be in order to the amendments and that when the Senate resumes consideration of the bill on Wednesday all debate time until the votes be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Democratic leader, and I thank all Senators for their cooperation in the consideration of this bill today.

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. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 3594, AS MODIFIED

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Gregg amendment be modified with the changes at the desk.

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

The amendment (No. 3594), as modified, is as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE ___—BORDER SECURITY
EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR BORDER SECURITY
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

For an additional amount for the "Office of the Secretary and Executive Management" to provide funds for the Office of Policy, \$2,000,000: *Provided*, That the entire amount is solely for a contract with an independent non-Federal entity to conduct a needs assessment for comprehensive border security: *Provided further*, That the entire amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

For an additional amount for the "Office of the Chief Information Officer" to replace and upgrade law enforcement communications, \$50,000,000, to remain available until ex-

ended: *Provided*, That the entire amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

UNITED STATES VISITOR AND IMMIGRATION STATUS INDICATOR TECHNOLOGY

For an additional amount for "United States Visitor and Immigration Status Indicator Technology" to accelerate biometric database integration and conversion to 10-print enrollment, \$60,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the additional appropriations made available under this heading may be obligated until the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives receive and approve a plan for the expenditure of such funds: *Provided further*, That the entire amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for "Salaries and Expenses", \$180,000,000, of which \$80,000,000 is for border patrol vehicle replacement and \$100,000,000 is for sensor and surveillance technology: *Provided*, That none of the additional appropriations made available under this heading may be obligated until the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives receive and approve a plan for expenditure of these funds: *Provided further*, That the entire amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

AIR AND MARINE INTERDICTION, OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND PROCUREMENT

For an additional amount for "Air and Marine Interdiction, Operations, Maintenance, and Procurement" to replace air assets and upgrade air operations facilities, \$790,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$40,000,000 is for helicopter replacement and \$750,000,000 is for recapitalization of air assets: *Provided*, That none of the additional appropriations made available under this heading may be obligated until the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives receive and approve an expenditure plan for the complete recapitalization of Customs and Border Protection air assets and facilities: *Provided further*, That the entire amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for "Construction", \$120,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the additional appropriations made available under this heading may be obligated until the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives receive and approve a plan for expenditure for these funds: *Provided further*, That the entire amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for "Salaries and Expenses" to replace vehicles, \$30,000,000: *Provided*, That the entire amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS

For an additional amount for "Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements" for acquisition, construction, renovation, and improvement of vessels, aircraft, and equipment, \$600,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the entire amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER

ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENTS, AND RELATED EXPENSES

For an additional amount for "Acquisition, Construction, Improvements, and Related Expenses" for construction of the language training facility referenced in the Master Plan and information technology infrastructure improvements, \$18,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the entire amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

REDUCTION IN FUNDING

SEC. _____. The aggregate amount provided by chapter 3 of title I of this Act and chapter 3 of title II of this Act may not exceed \$67,062,188,000.

Mr. COCHRAN. 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. 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.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there now be 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.

ENERGY PRICES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I would like to make a few comments on what is on the forefront of most people's minds today, especially if they have been in their automobiles or their trucks or driving their tractors, and that is the rising oil prices. As the weather heats up and families plan their summer vacations, many are getting increasingly frustrated by the rising price of gas. Every day it seems gas prices are ticking up, and some areas of the country gas prices have already topped a whopping \$3 per gallon. Experts tell us that these already high prices only threaten to get worse as we head into the summer driving months.

While we understand global supply and demand pressures around the world, especially China and India, are the main culprits, it really doesn't

seem fair to the average American consumer that they are having to pay so much at the pump each time they fill up their vehicle. It simply can't go on indefinitely. We can't continue to rely on foreign oil that comes from governments that are unstable or are directly hostile to America's interests. Just this week, Iran's hard-line President threatened that "the global oil price has not reached its real value yet."

We need to find short- and long-term solutions to America's dangerous dependence on these foreign sources of oil. We need to find ways to strengthen and diversify our own domestic supply.

On Monday, Speaker HASTERT and I sent the President a letter. In that letter we urged an effort to direct the Federal Trade Commission, as well as the Department of Justice, to examine, investigate possible price gouging and other anticompetitive practices that may be unfairly driving up gas prices. Price gouging, price fixing, and other forms of collusion are wrong. They are immoral. They should be prosecuted to the full extent of Federal and State law. I am pleased that the President announced yesterday that the investigations we asked for are underway. I also urge consumers to report any suspicious activity directly to the Department of Energy's Web site so that we can track down any wrongdoers and bring them to justice.

Meanwhile, Senator STEVENS and others have developed an anti-price-gouging bill in response to my request last fall following the hearing with the CEOs of the major oil companies. I anticipate that the Senate will take up the Stevens proposal. In addition, the President has wisely called for suspending additions to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve this summer. We have enough oil in the reserve to get through any major short-term supply disruptions. While it is not a lot, this brief halt will leave a little more oil on the market and, as the President said, every little bit helps.

These are important first steps in bringing relief to millions of Americans being pummeled with high prices at the pump. But there is much more to be done. We need to think long term and strategically on how to move the supply and demand equation in our favor by breaking America's addiction to oil and diversifying our energy supply. Instead of looking for scapegoats, as the other side is doing now, we need to look for solutions and provide long-term security for the American people.

Last summer, after a decade of partisan obstruction, Congress passed a comprehensive energy bill. We doubled the amount of ethanol and biodiesel in our gasoline. By 2012, this should reduce oil consumption by 80,000 barrels a day. We passed a hybrid car tax credit of up to \$3,400 per vehicle. There is more that we can do to encourage consumers to purchase fuel-efficient hybrid cars, and we will pursue those options vigorously. The Energy bill also allocated significant funding for re-

search and development of hydrogen fuel cells. If just 20 percent or one out of five cars used fuel cell technology, we would cut oil imports by 1.5 million barrels a day.

We need to build on these initiatives and encourage American consumers, the producers, and entrepreneurs to think beyond oil. I believe, as does the President, that America's future lies with technology that will allow Americans to use environmentally safe and diverse energy sources. Instead of driving into a gas station, we will pull up to a fueling station where we might plug in or fill up with ethanol, electricity, or hydrogen or some combination that technology has made possible.

Political instability in Venezuela won't send our energy prices soaring. Foreign dictators won't be able to use oil to hold the world's policies hostage. America will be safer and more secure with American energy coming from American sources.

The Energy bill we passed last year is a good start. We can accomplish a whole lot more if we can get bipartisan cooperation. Unfortunately, when it comes to energy security, bipartisanship has been hard to come by, and that makes solving the energy problem even more difficult.

Developing new energy sources takes time and research. For example, had President Clinton not vetoed ANWR a decade ago, the reserve would be producing a million barrels of oil a day right now. That is about three-fourths of what we currently import from Saudi Arabia.

I hope to be able to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to find fair and effective ways to strengthen and diversify America's energy supply.

Challenge, action, solutions—that is what the American people sent us here to do. By staying focused on our long-term goals, we can keep America moving forward.

METHAMPHETAMINE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the growing problem of meth has been particularly personal to me. As I have traveled across my home State of Tennessee, I have heard the heart-wrenching stories of how meth is tearing families apart and about the unique challenges that meth abuse presents to law enforcement and social services.

I would like to commend Chairman GRASSLEY and Ranking Member BAUCUS of the Finance Committee for holding a hearing earlier today to discuss the social and economic impact of methamphetamine on our Nation's child welfare system.

Law enforcement ranks the number one drug problem—above cocaine, marijuana, and heroin. I am proud that the Senate listened to law enforcement and that we acted earlier this year by passing the Combat Meth Act. Because of this legislation, meth users in all 50

States are now restricted from purchasing large quantities of ingredients, like pseudoephedrine, used to make meth. This law is a step in the right direction. However, as we heard today in the Finance hearing, there is much left to be done.

One particular aspect of meth abuse that was addressed in the hearing today is the impact that this poisonous drug is having on our Nation's children. The hazards to children living in meth homes are numerous. First, when meth is being cooked, children are exposed to dangerous gases and hazardous waste which spread throughout the house, contaminating everything, including the children's clothes and toys. A recent study shows that the amount of exposure children living in meth lab homes have is about the same as if they were using meth directly. Secondly, these labs often explode, resulting in serious injuries, burns, and even death to innocent children.

Children living in homes where meth is being made are also more likely to be severely neglected and physically, mentally, and sexually abused by members of their own family as well as other individuals who may be present. Meth causes users to become paranoid and irritable, often leading to child abuse. Once the drug wears off, users tend to sleep for long periods and sometimes days, leaving children to fend for themselves.

One individual testifying today told the committee about a mother who was on a meth binge and literally forgot she had a baby. Child protective services was called when the woman did not pick up her 2-month-old from a babysitter. Three weeks later when the mother was located, she admitted that she had been on a meth binge.

Child welfare services throughout the Country have seen a sharp increase in the number of children removed from meth homes in the last several years. Two weeks ago in Knoxville, TN, a 18-month-old boy was rescued from a meth home when law enforcement raided the house and arrested his mother and her boyfriend for manufacturing meth. Sadly, this is just one example of a much larger problem.

In the last 2 years, over 1,000 children have been removed from homes in Tennessee due to meth-related investigations. And, nationwide, thousands more children were rescued from homes where meth was being cooked. Dr. Nancy Young testified today that in the last 5 years, over 15,000 children have been impacted by meth manufacturing nationwide. She added that this number was very low because many incidents go unreported.

The methamphetamine epidemic continues to place a tremendous strain on an already overburdened child welfare system. Child protective services and welfare officials are struggling to cope with the staggering increase in meth-related cases and the subsequent challenges associated with this particular addiction. Social workers in rural