I want to have an opportunity to offer amendments. I want to have an opportunity to talk about this. We are talking about people's lives, and there are some serious cuts in here that affect some of the most vulnerable citizens.

I would start, coming from a cold weather State, talking about the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, many of whom are elderly, many of whom are disabled—we are a cold weather State —many of whom depend upon this grant. This was eliminated on the House side. We restored the funding on the Senate side, and now there have been additional cuts of over $300 million in this program—$330 million in cuts in energy assistance for some of the most vulnerable citizens.

So I think we need to have an opportunity to offer amendments, an opportunity to debate and certainly an opportunity to even go through this bill. I was not elected from Minnesota to come here and just have things rammed through. This is the first time I have had a copy of this bill—the first time. Significant changes have been made. I am a legislator. We should have an opportunity to evaluate this, and we should have a debate on what is in this.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I understand the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is the same as in the vetoed bill. There has not been any change in that. I do not know where the $400 million figure came from.

I want to include in the RECORD at this point a statement of administration policy, this is the Clinton administration policy, that supports H.R. 1944 as it passed the House:

H.R. 1944 provides an important balance between deficit reduction and providing funds to meet emergency needs. This legislation provides essential funding for FEMA Disaster Relief, for the Federal response to the bombing in Oklahoma City, for increased anti-terrorism efforts, and for providing debt relief to Jordan in order to contribute to further progress toward a Middle East peace settlement. H.R. 1944 reduces Federal spending by $9 billion.

I think the administration statement is in accord with the thinking of most individuals.

This matter did pass the House last night. As I understand it, there has been change in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program since the bill passed the Senate.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Actually it is true. The bill the President vetoed is the same. Many of us voted against that. What we passed out of the Senate restored the $1.3 billion for low-income energy assistance. Now we have gone back to over $300 million of cuts. That is a very serious issue for people in my State. I just received a copy of this. Let us take some time and evaluate what is in this rescissions bill.

Mr. DOLE. 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. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAMS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I have been discussing H.R. 1944 with the Democratic leader, Senator DASCHLE. I understand now I have consent to turn to the consideration of H.R. 1944.

Mr. DASCHLE. That is correct.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE, FOR ANTITERRORISM INITIATIVES, FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE RECOVERY FROM THE TRAGEDY THAT OCCURRED AT OKLAHOMA CITY, AND RESCISSIONS ACT, 1995

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we turn to consideration of H.R. 1944.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 1944, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1944) making emergency supplemental appropriations for additional disaster assistance, for antiterrorism initiatives, for assistance in the recovery of the tragedy that occurred in Oklahoma City, and making rescissions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I also understand we will not be able to get unanimous consent that there be no amendments to the bill, so I will not make that request.

I am advised that the managers are here. We would like to proceed as quickly as possible. If there are amendments we hope the amendments will be offered with very little debate. Certainly people have a right to offer amendments. We discourage amendments.

I hope that those who want this bill passed—which will save $9.2 billion and is supported by President Clinton—will join together in defeating any amendments or tabling any amendments that may be offered.

I know there are a number of absent Senators on each side of the aisle. I must say they were never told there would be no votes today, so they left at their own risk.

In any event, I think we are prepared to proceed on the bill.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, we are prepared to proceed. While I know there are absent Senators on both sides, I think it is important we try to finish the business on this particular legislation.

The ranking member has done an outstanding job of bringing the Senate to this point, and they deserve our support for the work they have done. We hope in the not-too-distant future today we can accomplish our task and pass this legislation. I yield the floor.

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I would like the attention of the Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. President, before I engage in an opening statement, I would like to make one observation and describe a very unique situation we are in.

In this rescissions package, we have, in effect, made cuts at current 1995 appropriations counts that represents about $3 billion in outlays in the outyears.

I want to make very clear to the Senator from Minnesota and others who may be interested in this—knowing of his concern for nonmilitary discretionary programs that involve people, children, poor people, needy low-income energy assistance, other such programs—if we cannot put this bill through before we adjourn at this time, let me indicate the time program and consequences.

Anything that stalls this at this time to move on this and act upon this, puts the Senate into July 10 returning. On that date, and the day following, the Appropriations Committee will be, then, in a process of making allocations under the 602(b) of the Budget Act for 1996 accounts.

If we cannot make that $3 billion outlay action now, that means we are going to have to add that to the 1996 allocations in order to stay within the budget resolution.

What any Senator would be doing would be taking the responsibility of cutting further, deeper, into those programs he or she may be interested in, by holding up this action today, because we are not going to be able to delay the 1996 action any longer.

The House has already passed four of six out of their committee. If we cannot absorb in the 1995 period that $3 billion outlay, we will be absorbing it in the 1996. Any Senator would be compounding the very thing they are trying to defend. The Senator is creating a higher cut in 1996. We cannot escape that.

Let me say, we also lost the battle of cutting out the *Seawolf* or the B–2 bomber or something and taking that money and putting it into programs of nonmilitary. We lost that battle. We are precluded in the appropriations in our 602(b) allocations of transferring money from defense discretionary to nondefense discretionary.

Do not be misled with the idea that somehow we will face the battle on the *Seawolf* or the B–2, and we will reduce those commitments in the defense appropriation discretionary programs and be able to use them for low-income energy assistance or other welfare or people's need programs. That battle we have lost, much to my chagrin.

I want to just add a word of caution. The very things that the Senator may feel he would defend in the 1995 rescission, the Senator will compound it in