

veterans and children and the whole range of those who are adversely affected by this shutdown.

It must not go on. We simply cannot leave with this matter left unresolved. And so it is important that regardless of what happens at the meeting tomorrow, the Senate be on record in support of a continuing resolution which completely funds the Government for a period of time. I am hopeful the majority leader and I can work together to make that happen at some point tomorrow under any set of circumstances.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DORGAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada has the floor and yielded to the two leaders for the purpose of the unanimous-consent request. Does the Senator from Nevada yield or reclaim the floor?

Mr. DOLE. What is the pending business now?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Completing the statement of the Senator from Nevada, the pending business will be the conference report.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I simply want to make an inquiry of the majority leader. I wonder if the Senator from Nevada will allow me to do that.

Mr. REID. I will, without losing my right to the floor. We talked about records. Senator DOLE talked about his record. I think I have broken a record. I have been here and yielded 12 times. I will be happy to make it for the 13th. [Laughter.]

Mr. DORGAN. Make mine the 14th.

Mr. REID. This is the 13th.

THE FARM BILL

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I appreciate the Senator yielding to me. I would like to inquire of the majority leader on the subject of the farm bill. Senator DOLE comes from farm country, as many of us do in the Chamber, and we face an unusual circumstance toward the end of this year. This is the year we normally would have written a 5-year farm plan. A plan has not been written. One was in the original legislation that was passed by the Senate that was vetoed by the President, the reconciliation bill.

Many of us are concerned, as are farmers from across the country, about what will be the decision of Congress, what kind of circumstance might exist for them and their lenders to anticipate with respect to planting next year, what kind of support prices and so on.

I just rise to inquire of the majority leader what his thinking is about the movement of a farm bill or the extension of the current farm program for a year. What is the current thinking of the majority leader on that subject?

Mr. DOLE. Obviously, I share the concern expressed by the Senator from North Dakota.

Let me first indicate, there will be no more votes today, because I have had inquiries.

It is my understanding that at 3:30 or 4 o'clock this afternoon, there was a discussion of the so-called farm bill with different representatives from the White House and others who were there. I would like to see it part of this package that I hope we can agree on that will give us a balanced budget but still include the agriculture legislation. It is important not only to the Midwest where we are from, but very important to consumers in America and other farmers across this country.

A 1-year extension, if everything else fails, might be an option. As the Senator knows, if that does not happen, we go back to, what is it, 1948, 1949, which would not be very productive, in my view. It would be very high price supports. So I am hopeful that we can work—we are working in a bipartisan way. I say to the Democratic leader, talking about when we get to agriculture, it must be one of the areas we must agree on if we are going to come together and pass a package.

Mr. DORGAN. I appreciate the answer. I point out, as the Senator knows, the urgency with which many farmers view this process, whether it is in or out of a reconciliation bill. I think farmers and their lenders need some understanding of what will be the circumstances for their planting next year, what might or might not be the price support system.

I am not suggesting there is blame here. I am suggesting somehow we need to get to a decision and it might be the extension of the current farm bill or it might be a different plan put in the reconciliation bill. If a reconciliation bill does not occur, then would there be a contingency and does the Senator share the urgency many of us feel on this floor about the need to resolve this issue?

Mr. DOLE. I have been on the Ag Committee—I think I have the record of more service on the Ag Committee than any other member on that committee. We have gone through this a number of times. Certainly, it is very important, very significant for America's farmers. I feel, I hope, as deeply as the Senator from North Dakota and others in the Chamber, when we have large numbers of farmers and ranchers in our States. I hope we can reach some conclusion. If not, we may have to look at an extension for a year.

Mr. DORGAN. Thank you.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, if I can ask the Senator from Nevada to yield just one more time.

SENATOR BYRD'S COMMENTS

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I learned in my absence my colleague from West Virginia, Senator BYRD, revealed that I had tied the record for service as the Republican leader. I had no idea that was a fact. If Senator BYRD says it, I know it is a fact because I know he checked it very carefully. I want to thank him for his gracious comments and thank all of my colleagues who

have tolerated me during that—what is it—10 years.

SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT—VETO

The Senate continued with the reconsideration of the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am here to speak on the securities litigation veto override. I want everyone in Nevada to know that this is the same issue that a few weeks ago Senator BRYAN and I disagreed on. It is not a new issue. You see, in Nevada, Mr. President, it is news when Senator BRYAN and Senator REID disagree on an issue, so I repeat for the people of Nevada this is the same issue; it is not a new issue, because we vary so little in our outlook on what is good Government.

Mr. President, there are a lot of issues today that perhaps I would rather be debating, but the parliamentary measure now before us is the securities litigation. A balanced budget or welfare reform would certainly be more timely. There are a number of other issues we should perhaps be dealing with. But the matter that is now before this body is a bipartisan piece of legislation designed to curtail the filing of frivolous security strike suits.

Yesterday, in the House of Representatives, 83 Democrats voted to override, joining the Republicans to obtain, of course, over 300 House votes, significantly more than enough to override the President's veto.

I am distressed that the President has decided to veto this moderate, centrist approach to litigation reform. I am concerned that he has vetoed this legislation for the wrong reasons.

I have reviewed closely his veto message. It does not take very long to read. It would appear he has found very few substantive reasons for vetoing the measure. I believe that the President of the United States received very bad staff advice. One need only look at a number of editorials written this morning in the papers around the country. One in the Washington Times today says, among other things "According to administration aides, the crucial moment came when New York University Law School Professor John Sexton visited the White House to personally argue that the legislation should be vetoed."

I do not know who John Sexton met with, whether it was staff in the White House or whether it was the President, but if it were staff and the message was carried to the President, it was pretty bad information because had the staff properly advised the President, they would have found that this man is not really a law professor in the true sense of the word but, rather, he is the dean of a law school. In fact, if this advice was delivered from a professor, as has been stated, without clear vested interests on either side of the hotly contested issue, then the staff gave the President some pretty bad advice, because according to The Wall Street