

the importance of getting this work completed, including the so-called title V. The administration indicated they wanted title V taken completely out. But once they started reading it and seeing what was in it, they realized there were several provisions in there that, in fact, they liked or that made good common sense. So in the wee hours this morning—it must have been 3 or 4 o'clock—Senator SIMPSON and others were in a room working on this language. Finally, with great difficulty, they came to an agreement. Many portions of title V are still in there. We still have some very reasonable expectations regarding legal immigrants. But the big illegal immigration bill now is in the continuing resolution that we will be taking up in the next couple of days.

So the House of Representatives, not able to get the Gallegly language included in illegal immigration, have now moved it separately. They passed it through the House overwhelmingly, as I understand it. I don't recall the vote. So we have it here in the Senate. We ought to pass the Gallegly language. I will be asking unanimous consent that we proceed to its consideration momentarily.

I still don't see the Democratic whip back from the Cloakroom. Others may wish to speak. I have to wait for his return, so I will yield the floor and perhaps the Senator from South Dakota can speak and allow me to come back.

Mr. PRESSLER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

COMMENDING LEADERSHIP FOR ITS HARD WORK

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I commend the majority leader and others on the difficulty in bringing the Congress to a close and concluding all ongoing negotiations. I am very proud of the efforts that are being made on the Federal Aviation Administration authorization bill to get that vitally important legislation before the Senate for consideration. I am also very proud of the efforts to bring the Coast Guard bill to closure as well as efforts to agree to a continuing resolution.

With so many constituent interests represented by Congress, sometimes it is quite difficult to reach consensus on legislation. I think this point is not well understood across the country. We have a vast country, and I know that Congress is much criticized for acting slowly or sometimes failing to act. On the other hand, what is the alternative to resolving disputes with such a huge country, with so many Members of Congress, so many citizens, so many different interests? All those come to a head, so-to-speak, at the close of a Congress, and it requires great compromise.

It has been my pleasure to chair the House-Senate conference committee working on the critically important Federal Aviation authorization bill.

The conference report accompanying that bill is ready for immediate consideration by this body. Unfortunately, several of my colleagues have objected to consideration of the conference report because they oppose a single section of that bill, an bipartisan amendment offered by the distinguished Senator from South Carolina, Senator HOLLINGS, in conference. Every Senate conferee voted in favor of the Hollings amendment which makes a technical correction to the Railway Labor Act. An excellent bill is being held up over a difference of opinion relating to 5 lines in a 189 pages aviation safety and security bill.

Mr. President, we cannot adjourn without passing the conference report to the Federal Aviation authorization bill. The House approved the conference report yesterday. If we do not approve the conference report, the Senate will have failed to meet its responsibility to the traveling public. Airports across the country will not receive much needed Airport Improvement Program [AIP] funds for safety-related repairs and other necessary improvements. Two years of tireless efforts to reach a compromise on FAA reform provisions will be lost. Vitally important aviation safety and security provisions will not be put in place. Family members of future aviation disaster victims would be denied the thoughtful, comprehensive protections this legislation would provide to them. Provisions to revitalize air service to small communities will not go into effect. It short, inaction by the Senate on this conference report would be a very serious mistake for which this body would be roundly criticized.

Let me also comment a little bit on agriculture, because I know that at this time of the year, the payments regarding the Freedom to Farm Act are going out to some farmers. That was a controversial bill that was worked out in this Chamber. Let me say that I am proud to have been a part of the leadership team and proud to have voted for freedom to farm. But we need to expand our agricultural markets abroad. We have done that for our commodities, and under NAFTA and GATT, we have exported more agricultural products than ever in our history. There has been some dispute on transshipment of cattle, in terms of Mexico and Canada, under NAFTA. We hope that those issues are resolved and NAFTA is better enforced.

Mr. President, I might also say that, in terms of our agriculture future, Alan Greenspan has said that one of the greatest agricultural farm bills is a balanced budget. I hope that we can continue to expand our agricultural exports, especially as they regard commodity prices.

I yield the floor. I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask that I be permitted to speak as if in morning business for 5 minutes.

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

Mrs. BOXER. I thank the Chair.

STATUS OF CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, as we come down to the final hours, there are so many pending matters that are important to my home State of California, and it would take far too long to go into all of them in detail. But I thought for purposes of the RECORD I would let my constituents know and my colleagues know where we stand on a number of these issues that are so important. I discuss them not in any order of priority but just as I put them forward.

First of all, I am distressed that we still have not confirmed a judge who is highly qualified to sit on the Federal bench in the Central District Court of California, Margaret Morrow. Republicans in this Congress said, "Look, when you send us a nominee, make sure that he or she has bipartisan support." Senator FEINSTEIN and I and the Senators on this side of the aisle have done that with our nominations, and yet, as my friend from Illinois knows, because he sits on that Judiciary Committee and expressed his great disappointment with the lack of action on these judges, we have not gotten our nominees confirmed. I think it is a great disservice to the people of this country who seek justice, who demand justice, who want swift justice. If you do not have the people on the bench to fulfill the responsibilities that we place upon the courts, we are not going to have justice in this Nation.

This particular nominee, Margaret Morrow, in the last month I asked her could she line up some Republican support, and everyone from the sheriff of Los Angeles to people in the private sector who are registered Republicans wrote magnificent letters about Margaret Morrow, thereby proving that she does have bipartisan, strong support.

It was an honor to recommend such a fine candidate to the President. Her name was submitted to me by my judicial advisory committee for the Central District of California. I did not personally know Ms. Morrow before I recommended her to the administration, but my committee enthusiastically found her to be a superior judicial candidate.

However, despite her strong bipartisan support and strong credentials, her nomination remains indefinitely stalled, with no Member coming forward to explain why she cannot be confirmed.

Margaret Morrow was nominated by the administration on May 10. She received her nominations hearing at the