

Right to the point, everybody wants to either vote or dispose and move along with the underlying disaster supplemental measure rather than this one particular manufacturer and this one particular drug. Under the circumstances here on the floor, I have not been able to talk in caucus or to my colleagues about it. The fact is, I was told, when I came in this morning, it was being worked out.

Specifically, while we had taken care, I understand, of the drug administered orally with the generic drug folks and consumer groups that called with respect to it, the drug taken intravenously had not been cleared with the generic groups. While we have gone to great lengths to solve all the problems with and get this amendment cleared, we have not been able to do so. It was my hope that we could get the best of both worlds and provide a remedy for a company hurt by a misinterpretation of the law and also get generic competition onto the market faster than it would have without this amendment. That, I thought, was being worked out this morning, but I understand, now, the Senator from Minnesota has not agreed to that.

I will be prepared, under the circumstance here, to withdraw that amendment and not cause the colleagues to vote. But I do not think, technically or parliamentarily, you can withdraw a section of a bill. So I will be glad to go along with the Senator from Minnesota on a voice vote and vote along with him at this particular time, to see if we cannot get this straightened out.

The staff, floor and all, have been anxious. They are trying to move this particular bill. I know Senator STEVENS has been very anxious to do it. I appreciated being included in the Appropriations Committee version. I still think it is with absolute merit. But, under the circumstance, now I am prepared to go along with the motion of the Senator from Minnesota to strike and we will come back in at the appropriate time.

I yield the floor and 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 67

(Purpose: To make technical and clarifying changes to title II, chapter 1 of the bill)

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I send to the desk an amendment to make technical and clarifying changes to title II, chapter 1 of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] proposes an amendment numbered 67.

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

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 9, line 25, strike “, to remain available until expended” after “ters,” and insert “, to remain available until expended” after “\$18,000,000”.

On page 11, line 25, after “disasters” insert “subject to a Presidential or Secretarial declaration”.

On page 11, strike all between the word “similar” on line 25 and the word “to” on line 26.

On page 12, line 4, strike “the eligibility” and insert in lieu thereof “gross income and payment limitations”.

On page 13, line 13, strike “cropland” and insert in lieu thereof “agricultural land”.

On page 13, line 13, strike “cropland” and insert in lieu thereof “agricultural land”.

On page 16, line 2, strike “\$3,000,000,” and insert in lieu thereof “\$6,500,000”.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, this amendment, as stated, makes technical and clarifying changes to the agriculture title to the supplemental appropriations bill. The changes have been approved by the ranking Democrat on the committee, Mr. BUMPERS, and the amendment has been cleared on both sides of the aisle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate? If not, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 67) was agreed to.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the amendment was agreed to, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

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

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

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 12:30 p.m., having arrived, the Senate will now stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, at 12:31 p.m., the Senate recessed until 2:15; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. COATS).

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND RESCISSIONS ACT OF 1997

The Senate continued with consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 54

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous agreement, the Senator from Minnesota is reserved 2 minutes 30 seconds.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, we are going to be voting in a few minutes on the Grams-Johnson amendment that will help complement disaster relief efforts currently underway now in my home State of Minnesota, as well as North and South Dakota, by making it easier for farmers, homeowners, small businesses and local governments to help rebuild from the devastation that has been brought on by the floods.

Our amendment, simply put, will permit Federal regulators to provide temporary and targeted modifications to current banking regulations. It will permit homeowners, farmers, and small businesses to have faster access to a larger pool of credit. It will also help banks and credit unions to reopen their doors faster to serve their communities.

Also, Mr. President, the Grams-Johnson amendment is supported by the Treasury Department, the Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, and also the National Credit Union Administration.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter from NCUA in support of the amendment be printed in the RECORD.

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

NATIONAL CREDIT UNION
ADMINISTRATION,
Alexandria, VA, May 5, 1997.

Hon. ROD GRAMS,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR GRAMS: Thank you for the opportunity to review the Depository Institution Disaster Relief Act of 1997 (S. 652). I want to applaud you and Senator Tim Johnson for introducing this disaster relief legislation and NCUA supports its quick passage.

The legislation is similar to bills passed by Congress in 1992 (P.L. 102-485) and 1993 (P.L. 103-76) to address the devastation wrought by natural disasters and make credit more easily available to farmers, homeowners and others through temporary exceptions in the Truth in Lending Act and Expedited Funds Availability Act, among others. Just last Friday, the NCUA Board took action to waive the requirement that natural person credit unions and corporate credit unions establish reserves on total loans of up to \$50 million that will be made to members in disaster areas. We believe this policy change will enable credit unions to make loans at well below market rate.

The NCUA Board's recent action and already announced policy of postponing scheduled examinations, encouraging loans with special terms as well as reduced documentation and guaranteeing lines of credit through the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund and the Central Liquidity Facility, dovetails your legislative efforts and hopefully will provide a measure of relief to credit unions and their members in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota affected by the catastrophic flooding. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on S. 652.

Sincerely,
NORMAN E. D'AMOURS,
Chairman.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, the Grams-Johnson amendment has the