

for them to make some comments if they would like, I yield the floor at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I just want to thank the distinguished majority leader for his leadership on this very important issue. In the judgment of this Senator, there is nothing more important than protecting the first amendment and giving American citizens an opportunity to participate in the political process.

I would say that is not just my view. That is the view of the United States Supreme Court. It is the view of the American Civil Liberties Union. The Court has said you have a constitutional right to support, to contribute to the candidate of your choice. So we are talking about fundamental first amendment rights in this debate.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues who have spoken during the course of this debate. The number of speakers has been roughly equal on both sides. Every one of the Senators who spoke on my side of this issue spoke in defense of the first amendment.

I also extend my gratitude and my appreciation to Tamara Somerville, my long-time assistant in this struggle to protect the first amendment. Nobody has ever worked harder, produced more brilliant subject matter, and done it with greater humor than she. So, my thanks to Tam, not only for her good work for me but also on behalf of the country, in defense of the first amendment.

I also want to thank her assistant, Lani Gerst, who did a remarkable job as well, for all of her help.

Mr. President, it has indeed been a wonderful debate. We will in all likelihood have it off and on again. It seems that is the history of this issue. It has been around a few times over the last 10 years, but I think the opposition to ruining the first amendment continues to grow. Today's cloture vote against cloture was the highest in 10 years.

So, I end today on an optimistic note, that the first amendment will, indeed, survive for another year.

I yield the floor.

Mr. FORD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I hear a lot of interesting talk. It amuses me some but it also bothers me. In the hearing in the Governmental Affairs Committee today—we heard the majority leader talking about tapes. They don't want to impugn the integrity of the President, but they kind of scorn the tapes suddenly showing up. After everyone made a statement all morning—never got to witness, talked about tapes all morning—they tried to get to Mr. Ruff, I believe his name is, who is the counsel for the White House, who came down to the meeting, came in the audience, and the ranking member tried to get him before the committee

to answer their questions. And he was gavelled down and the committee recessed.

Something about this does not ring true. If you can come out here and just bash somebody and bash them, and they have no opportunity to defend themselves, and then you recess the meeting—something like that is what is happening here on the Senate floor. We see a campaign finance reform bill that comes up and we do what we refer to as filling the tree, and that means no one else can put up an amendment, and they say we have an opportunity to debate the bill? That is like the man trying to answer in the Governmental Affairs Committee about the tapes that were released, and they wouldn't let him talk.

So, we are trying to get to a campaign finance bill here today and you can't talk. Oh, you can talk, but you can't vote. And they talk about this amendment of the majority leader's, that is so great—why is it that they will not accept a more comprehensive bill in the same light that covers everybody? No, they want their own bill, because it is harder on labor than it is on business. It is harder on labor than it is on associations. So, that is the reason that amendment has been cloistered and we cannot get to it.

I understand we have a couple of more minutes. This is a little bit like they talk about the laws, that everything is fine. It is like being opposed to the IRS. Oh, we have had all these hearings about IRS, we are going to get rid of IRS, we are going to do all that—but the Republicans are in the majority. They are the ones who are bashing IRS. But they passed a bill, a tax bill, of almost 900 pages—900 pages, and they are trying to say we want to get rid of the IRS. Sure they are going to get rid of the IRS. They are going to overload them. When IRS is overloaded the constituents are overloaded.

Come on, now, give us a break. If you are against the IRS, don't pass 900 pages of new tax law. And, when a man wants to come to answer the questions that they are asking, let him talk, let him answer the questions. If you have an amendment that is comprehensive, that applies to all PAC's, all organizations, why not talk about it, why not let us vote on it? We are being gagged. We are being gagged by the majority. They don't want us to vote. They have the ability to do that. That is the rules of the Senate. I am in the minority. But we are going to protect the rights of the minority. We will protect the rights of the minority and that is the reason we are a great country, we listen to the minority's voice. We have a right and we exercise that right. We represent a State and we have that right, representing that State. We are U.S. Senators and we have that right.

So, therefore, that right is going to be exercised if I have anything to do with it and can stand on my feet.

I yield the floor at 4 o'clock.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. STEVENS). Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the Mack second-degree amendment No. 1253 to Calendar No. 155, S. 1156, the District of Columbia appropriations bill:

Connie Mack, Mike DeWine, Barbara Boxer, Bob Graham, Conrad Burns, Wayne Allard, Paul Coverdell, James M. Inhofe, John H. Chafee, Richard G. Lugar, Ted Stevens, Larry E. Craig, James M. Jeffords, Gordon Smith, R.F. Bennett, D. Nickles.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the Mack amendment No. 1253, as modified, to S. 1156, the DC appropriations bill, shall be brought to a close? The yeas and nays are required under the rule. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 99, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 268 Leg.]

YEAS—99

Abraham	Feingold	Lott
Akaka	Feinstein	Lugar
Allard	Ford	Mack
Ashcroft	Frist	McCain
Baucus	Glenn	McConnell
Bennett	Gorton	Mikulski
Biden	Graham	Moseley-Braun
Bingaman	Gramm	Moynihan
Bond	Grams	Murkowski
Boxer	Grassley	Murray
Breaux	Gregg	Nickles
Brownback	Hagel	Reed
Bryan	Harkin	Reid
Bumpers	Hatch	Robb
Burns	Helms	Roberts
Campbell	Hollings	Rockefeller
Chafee	Hutchinson	Roth
Cleland	Hutchison	Santorum
Coats	Inhofe	Sarbanes
Cochran	Inouye	Sessions
Collins	Jeffords	Shelby
Conrad	Johnson	Smith (NH)
Coverdell	Kempthorne	Smith (OR)
Craig	Kennedy	Snowe
D'Amato	Kerrey	Specter
Daschle	Kerry	Stevens
DeWine	Kohl	Thomas
Dodd	Kyl	Thompson
Domenici	Landrieu	Thurmond
Dorgan	Lautenberg	Torricelli
Durbin	Leahy	Warner
Enzi	Levin	Wellstone
Faircloth	Lieberman	Wyden

NAYS—1

Byrd

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 99, the nays are 1. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, in my capacity as a Senator from the State of Alaska, moves to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to proceed falls, and the clerk will report the pending bill.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1156) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill

Pending:

Coats modified amendment No. 1249, to provide scholarship assistance for District of Columbia elementary and secondary school students.

Graham/Mack/Kennedy amendment No. 1252, to provide relief to certain aliens who would otherwise be subject to removal from the United States.

Mack/Graham/Kennedy modified amendment No. 1253 (to amendment No. 1252), in the nature of a substitute.

MODIFIED AMENDMENT NO. 1253

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. MACK. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second for the yeas and nays? There does not appear to be a sufficient second. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the modified amendment No. 1253. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 99, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 269 Leg.]

YEAS—99

Abraham	Feingold	Lott
Akaka	Feinstein	Lugar
Allard	Ford	Mack
Ashcroft	Frist	McCain
Baucus	Glenn	McConnell
Bennett	Gorton	Mikulski
Biden	Graham	Moseley-Braun
Bingaman	Gramm	Moynihan
Bond	Grans	Murkowski
Boxer	Grassley	Murray
Breaux	Gregg	Nickles
Brownback	Hagel	Reed
Bryan	Harkin	Reid
Bumpers	Hatch	Robb
Burns	Helms	Roberts
Campbell	Hollings	Rockefeller
Chafee	Hutchinson	Roth
Cleland	Hutchison	Santorum
Coats	Inhofe	Sarbanes
Cochran	Inouye	Sessions
Collins	Jeffords	Shelby
Conrad	Johnson	Smith (NH)
Coverdell	Kempthorne	Smith (OR)
Craig	Kennedy	Snowe
D'Amato	Kerrey	Specter
Daschle	Kerry	Stevens
DeWine	Kohl	Thomas
Dodd	Kyl	Thompson
Domenici	Landrieu	Thurmond
Dorgan	Lautenberg	Torricelli
Durbin	Leahy	Warner
Enzi	Levin	Wellstone
Faircloth	Lieberman	Wyden

NAYS—1

Byrd

The modified amendment (No. 1253) was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. SANTORUM. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, October 6, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,413,432,617,300.15. (Five trillion, four hundred thirteen billion, four hundred thirty-two million, six hundred seventeen thousand, three hundred dollars and fifteen cents)

Five years ago, October 6, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$4,060,002,000,000. (Four trillion, sixty billion, million)

Ten years ago, October 6, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,378,537,000,000. (Two trillion, three hundred seventy-eight billion, five hundred thirty-seven million)

Fifteen years ago, October 6, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,128,772,000,000. (One trillion, one hundred twenty-eight billion, seven hundred seventy-two million)

Twenty-five years ago, October 6, 1972, the Federal debt stood at \$435,152,000,000 (Four hundred thirty-five billion, one hundred fifty-two million) which reflects a debt increase of nearly \$5 trillion—\$4,978,280,617,300.15 (Four trillion, nine hundred seventy-eight billion, two hundred eighty million, six hundred seventeen thousand, three hundred dollars and fifteen cents) during the past 25 years.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:39 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House insists upon its amendment to the bill (S. 1026) to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and asks a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. LEACH, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. LAFALCE, and Mr. FLAKE, as the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

At 2:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

H.R. 1703. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for improvements in

the system of the Department of Veterans Affairs for resolution and adjudication of complaints of employment discrimination.

H.R. 2206. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2571. An act to authorize major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 1998, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1703. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for improvements in the system of the Department of Veterans Affairs for resolution and adjudication of complaints of employment discrimination; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2206. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for homeless veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2571. An act to authorize major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 1998, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The following enrolled bill, previously signed by the Speaker of the House, was signed on today, October 7, 1997, by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND]:

H.R. 2378. An act making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1159. A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, regarding the Kake Tribal Corporation public interest land exchange, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-100).

By Mr. HELMS, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. 1266. An original bill to interpret the term "kidnapping" in extradition treaties to which the United States is a party (Rept. No. 105-101).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. GRAMM (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. DOMENICI, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. REID, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. ALLARD, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):