Lest I overwritten young Augustus with the great weight of such high expectations and such intimations of immortality, I hasten to wish him a happy childhood, complete with much exploring, great adventures, barked shins, of quiet moments of wonder and learning, of great books to be shared with his parents and grandparents, and of countless hugs and kisses. Be a boy, Augustus, with moments good and bad, tender and terrible like the Augustus in these lines by Heinrich Hoffman (1809–1874), who said:

Augustus was a chubby lad;
Fat ruddy cheeks Augustus had;
And every ball he rewound
The plump and hearty, healthy boy.
He ate and drank as he was told,
And never let his soup get cold.
But one day, one winter’s day,
He screamed out, ‘Take the soup away!
O take the nasty soup away!’
I won’t have any soup to-day.’

Welcome, young emperor, and carry on, bringing ever your illustrious grandfather under your sway with the dictatorial charms of a much loved child.

I yield the floor.

Mr. STEVENS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I am uncharacteristically speechless. I think—to listen to my good friend talk about my latest grandchild—he is absolutely right in one thing; and that is, there is nothing so humbling as to look at a child and realize what that child means. Senator BYRD told me once that to have a grandchild is to bring ever your illustrious and kisses. Be a boy, Augustus, with moments good and bad, tender and terrible like the Augustus in these lines by Heinrich Hoffman (1809–1874), who said:

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Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw amendment No. 3385.

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

The amendment (No. 3385) was withdrawn.

Mr. STEVENS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The first vote is on amendment No. 3379.

Mr. STEVENS. Have the yeas and nays been ordered?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. They have been ordered.

This is the McConnell amendment. There are 2 minutes equally divided.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the McConnell amendment is like no other amendment in the history of the Federal Election Commission.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I urge last night was on the table. This would really knock the socks off any election law enforcement over at the FEC. We oppose this very much. It would mean there would be a restriction on the FEC that is not on any other agency or department of government—such as the general counsel goes and their staff director.

The efforts to oust him over there, I think, are unconscionable. He has been doing a good job. This just stands starkly opposed to our efforts for campaign finance reform.

At the appropriate time I will move to table this, but I yield the remaining time to Senator LEVIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this amendment is directly aimed at the independence of the Federal Election Commission. It is aimed at no other commission. Its purpose is obvious—to eliminate a general counsel who has taken an independent position, following the Federal Election Commission’s decision relative to soft money and other issues.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the amendment is really quite simple. The Federal Election Commission is like no other commission of the Federal Government. It has three Republicans and three Democrats. The general counsel, under the current system, could serve for a lifetime. All the McConnell amendment does is require that every 4 years the general counsel come up for reappointment and not be reappointed unless he can achieve at least four votes, thereby demonstrating to the full Commission, not just the bipartisan body, enough confidence to continue for another 4-year term.

This guarantees that the general counsel will operate in a bipartisan manner, because a general counsel who, after 4 years, could not achieve votes from both parties, it seems to this Senator, clearly would fail a test of bipartisanship.

Mr. GLENN. Mr. President, I move to table the amendment. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the motion to table the McConnell amendment numbered 3379. Mr. GLENN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to table amendment No. 3379. On this question, the yeas and nays have been ordered, and the clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the amendment (No. 3385) was rejected.

Mr. GLENN. Mr. President, I urge the amendment (No. 3385) was rejected.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, we have had, obviously, extensive consultation about how to proceed to this point. There is disagreement about this particular amendment and how we can complete the Treasury-Postal Service and other related agencies appropriations bill at this time.

The interest of Senators to have time to work on the substance, what we have agreed to do is to set this bill aside—I will ask unanimous consent to that effect in a moment—and we would go on to the Department of Defense appropriations bill and continue to work progressively, with the idea of finishing the Department of Defense appropriations bill as early as possible—hopefully, even tonight—which will allow us time to work on some nominations and allow Senators to attend the funeral tomorrow and adjourn for the recess at a reasonable hour tomorrow, or earlier if there is any way of doing it.

I ask unanimous consent that the pending Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bill be laid aside, not to recur prior to September 1, unless agreement is worked out in the meantime. There is hope that could be done. Maybe we could act on it after the DOD appropriations bill is completed. If not, it would be September 1. And no call for the regular order serves to displace the treasury bill, when it is pending in September, in the status quo.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, just for purposes of clarification, this would lock into place the current situation. The pending amendment would be, of course, the McConnell amendment.

Senators wishing to offer amendments in the second degree subject to recognition would be recognized as authors of amendments in the second degree.

It is with that understanding that I do not object. I am sure the majority leader would clarify and would conform with that understanding.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, that is correct. Second-degree amendments would be in order. We are freezing everything in place. We would not take it up again before September 1 unless agreement were worked out. When we do go back to it, we will be right where we are now, and second-degree amendments will be in order.

Mr. GLENN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I don’t plan to object. I want to clarify, this would in no way affect the voting order we agreed to last night on other amendments.

Mr. LOTT. Everything would be just like it is at this very moment on this appropriations bill.

Mr. GLENN. Thank you. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The Senate continued with consideration of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the defense bill.

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**Vote Results:**

**AMENDMENT NO. 3379**

**YEAS—45**

Abakas
Baucus
Biden
Bingaman
Boxer
Breaux
Bryan
Bumpers
Byrd
Clotilde
Conrad
Daschle
DeWine
D’Amato
Craig
Cochran
Chafee
Burns
Brownback
Bond
Bennett
Ashcroft

**NAYS—54**

Akaka
Baucus
Biden
Bingaman
Boxer
Breaux
Bryan
Bumpers
Byrd
Clotilde
Conrad
Daschle
DeWine
D’Amato
Craig
Cochran
Chafee
Burns
Brownback
Bond
Bennett
Ashcroft

**NOT VOTING—1**

Reins

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**UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT**

The motion to lay on the table the amendment (No. 3399) was rejected.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, we have had, obviously, extensive consultation about how to proceed to this point. There is disagreement about this particular amendment and how we can complete the Treasury-Postal Service and other related agencies appropriations bill at this time.

The interest of Senators to have time to work on the substance, what we have agreed to do is to set this bill aside—I will ask unanimous consent to that effect in a moment—and we would go on to the Department of Defense appropriations bill and continue to work progressively, with the idea of finishing the Department of Defense appropriations bill as early as possible—hopefully, even tonight—which will allow us time to work on some nominations and allow Senators to attend the funeral tomorrow and adjourn for the recess at a reasonable hour tomorrow, or earlier if there is any way of doing it.

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