Mr. DURBIN. I reserve the remainder of my time.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, will the Senator yield me some time?

Mr. DURBIN. I would be happy to yield to the Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. How much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I can't get started in 9 minutes on this subject.

Mr. DURBIN. In wonder if the Senator from West Virginia might be able to secure some time from the other side. I would be happy to ask, if there is anyone in the Chamber. They might be called for that purpose.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I was not in the Chamber when the agreement was entered into. My friend knew of my interest in speaking on the amendment, and I wish I had been protected.

Mr. DURBIN. May I ask the Chair, it was not my understanding that at about quarter of 7 we agreed we would debate this until 8 o'clock equally divided?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. DURBIN. That is correct. That is how it was voted. I am sorry; I apologize to the Senator from West Virginia, whom I asked to come to the floor, and I would be glad to give him every minute remaining. I am sorry that I had gone as long as I did, because I am anxious to hear his remarks.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I don't know how much time the opponents of this amendment will require.

Mr. President, I think I will just ask for 2 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. BYRD. I wish to thank the opponents for offering 10 minutes to me, but I feel that I will just ask that my speech be printed in the Record.

On this gravity, I am disappointed that the Senate has entered into an agreement to speak for what would amount to about 1 hour and 15 minutes for both opponents and proponents. Of course, the distinguished Senator from Illinois is preeminently correct in what he has said about the Constitution and what he has said about the efforts toward aggrandizement on the part of this administration and most recent administration when it comes to debating an amendment of this importance. This is an amendment that is calculated to protect the prerogatives of the Senate when it comes to our constitutional powers and duties, and here we are limited to speaking for 1 minute on an appropriations bill.

In saying this, of course, I am complaining, but I also want to thank Mr. DURBIN and I want to thank Mr. STEVENS for their consideration and kindness in offering to give me some additional time.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, before the Senator from West Virginia leaves the floor, I have just contacted the majority in an effort to postpone the vote so we could have the debate. I certainly would like the Senator from West Virginia to have an opportunity to state his position clearly. I believe it will be a valuable addition to this debate. I will be happy to afford an equal amount of time to the other side, so there is no disadvantage created.

Before I make that unanimous consent request, I have asked the majority side if there is objection.

Mr. STEVENS. What? I object. Just a second.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. DURBIN. If I might ask the Senator from Alaska, Senator BYRD has come to the floor to speak to this issue. I was wondering if it might be allowed by unanimous consent to extend—postpone the vote for a sufficient time so that each side could have an equal amount of time, to give the Senator from West Virginia his opportunity.

Mr. STEVENS. I say to the Senator, I have talked with Senator BYRD. We are perfectly prepared to have him continue to take time.

Under a unanimous consent agreement at 8 o'clock we gave Senator BYRD an hour to come back to us, and hopefully we can vote at approximately that time. I don't know how long my good friend is going to speak, but I will limit the amount of time spent in opposition. We will just make the motion to table when the time comes. We do not want to extend it now. We are going to have to be here until 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning as it is, so I object to any further change in this time agreement, and I urge my good friend from West Virginia to accept his statement. He knows we will accommodate him with such time as he needs. But let's not change the time agreement yet.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to the order of July 23, 1998, having received H.R. 4328, the provisions of the unanimous consent agreement are executed.

The provisions of the unanimous consent agreement are as follows:

That when the Senate receives the House companion bill, the Senate immediately proceeds to its consideration; that all after the enacting clause of S. 2168, as passed, be inserted in lieu thereof; that the House bill, as amended, be read for a third time and passed; that the Senate insists on its amendment, request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, and that the Chair appoint the following conferees on the part of the Senate: Senators Shelby, Domenici, Specter, Bond, Gorton, Bennett, Dole, Stevens, Lautenberg, Byrd, Mikulski, Reid, Kohl, Murray, and Inouye; and that the foregoing occur without any intervening action or debate.

Ordered further, That upon passage of the House companion measure, as amended, the passage of S. 2168 be vitiated and the bill be indefinitely postponed.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, it is my understanding when the Senator returns to the floor, Senator BYRD will speak. I state to the Senate, there is substantial opposition to this amendment. I am one who voted against the War Powers Act, but I think this goes too far. It is an amendment that should be considered by the Armed Services Committee and not debated at the last minute on an appropriations bill.

In the old days, we had a point of order against legislation on an appropriations bill. That point of order is not available to us now, but the concept is still there, and that is what we are trying to establish once again—the concept that we limit this discussion to amendments to the provisions of this bill that regard spending of money for our defense in the fiscal year 1999.