year is out to provide more help as we go through the conference.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I know there are a lot of Senators on their feet, and I try to be brief before I move for regular order. I am going to withhold so the Senator from North Dakota can comment and then the Senator from Georgia, and then I will ask for the regular order.

Mr. DORGAN. I do not intend to object. I have no quarrel with this provision that is being proposed tonight.

Mr. LOTT. Didn’t I call the Senator and ask if there was a problem?

Mr. DORGAN. You did call within the last hour or so, I indicated to you there was no problem with this provision, and I do not object to this provision.

But I do want to make the point that the Senate has debated and passed an emergency provision calling for $500 million indemnity payments. That is the only new money available. It is the only new money around in the appropriations process. If it is completed by October 1, then perhaps we may get money into the pockets of some farmers, who have been asking for it, further in recent weeks. It may get money into the hands of some farmers, perhaps in October—unlikely—perhaps November, maybe December.

My proposition is that to the extent that we have already debated the subject, the Senate, by 99 to nothing, has said we have an emergency in farm country. They have already passed a $500 million indemnity payment program. It makes eminent good sense to me that we would be able to pass that indemnity program this evening and move it to the House. Does the House want to deal with it? I don’t know. But they won’t have an opportunity to deal with it in any timely way if we don’t proceed.

I have no objection at all to what the Senator is requesting. I simply ask that he consider, and we consider, taking the $500 million we have already decided upon and see if we can’t move that to the hands of family farmers, many of whom are desperately strapped for cash.

As soon as the Senator has completed getting his unanimous consent and as soon as I am able to get the floor, I intend to ask unanimous consent the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and that the text of the House-passed bill is not identical to the text just sent to the desk, then the House bill will be appropriately referred.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, there are objections on our side.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I believe we are ready to go to final passage of the defense bill.

Mr. STEVENS. I ask we proceed with the unanimous consent agreement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Shall the bill, H.R. 4103, as amended, pass?

The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, there are objections on our side.

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 252 Leg.]

YEAS—97

Abraham   Faircloth   Lugar
Akaka      Feinstein   McCain
Allard      Frist       Mikulski
Ashcroft   Glenn       Moynihan
Baucus      Gordon     Murkowski
Bayh        Graham     Nickles
Bilbray     Grassley   Reed
Brownback   Hagel      Robb
Bryan       Harkin     Roberts
Burns       Hatch      Rockefeller
Byrd        Hutchinson   Roth
Campbell    Inhofe      Santorum
Chafee      Inouye      Sarbanes
Cleland     Jeffords    Sessions
Cochran      Johnson   Sherer
Collins      Kempthorne Smith (NH)
Connell     Kennedy   Smith (OR)
Coverdell    Kerrey     Snow
Craig         Kerr       Specter
D’Amato       Kohl       Stevens
Daschle      Kyl        Thomas
DeWine      Landrieu       Thurmond
Dodd       Lautenberg   Terrill
Domenici     Leahy      Warner
Dorgan       Levin      Wyden
Durbin       Lieberman  
Enzi         Lott

NAYS—2

Feingold   Welstone
NOT VOTING—1

Helms

The bill (H.R. 4103), as amended, was passed.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate receives the House bill relative to H-1B, the text of which I send to the desk, the bill be deemed agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table. I further ask that if the text of the House-passed bill is not identical to the text just sent to the desk, then the House bill will be appropriately referred.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, there are objections on our side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Shall the bill, H.R. 4103, as amended, pass?

The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, there are objections on our side.

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 252 Leg.]

YEAS—97

Abraham   Faircloth   Lugar
Akaka      Feinstein   McCain
Allard      Frist       Mikulski
Ashcroft   Glenn       Moynihan
Baucus      Gordon     Murkowski
Bayh        Graham     Nickles
Bilbray     Grassley   Reed
Brownback   Hagel      Robb
Bryan       Harkin     Roberts
Burns       Hatch      Rockefeller
Byrd        Hutchinson   Roth
Campbell    Inhofe      Santorum
Chafee      Inouye      Sarbanes
Cleland     Jeffords    Sessions
Cochran      Johnson    Sherer
Collins      Kempthorne Smith (NH)
Connell     Kennedy   Smith (OR)
Coverdell    Kerrey     Snow
Craig         Kerr       Specter
D’Amato       Kohl       Stevens
Daschle      Kyl        Thomas
DeWine      Landrieu       Thurmond
Dodd       Lautenberg   Terrill
Domenici     Leahy      Warner
Dorgan       Levin      Wyden
Durbin       Lieberman  
Enzi         Lott

NAYS—2

Feingold   Welstone
NOT VOTING—1

Helms

The bill (H.R. 4103), as amended, was passed.
Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, as I indicated to the majority leader, it is my intent to ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the bill which provides $500 million in agricultural indemnity payments which was agreed to as an amendment to the agricultural appropriations bill, and the bill be read the third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

Mr. GREGG. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I heard on the other side of the aisle a chorus of "I object." I am not quite sure why.

I was on a show this morning, WCCO Radio, in Minnesota. It is hard to explain to farmers why we can't take the action right now on the indemnity payment, the $500 million. We passed it. The correction would be made later on, but we can get assistance to farmers right now.

Why can't we send this over to the House? I say to my colleagues.

Mr. CRAIG. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. WELLSTONE. I am pleased to yield.

Mr. CRAIG. I helped craft that indemnity payment. It is very important we do work with the House. Senator CONRAD, I, and others, deserve to go to conference. Senator DORGAN was a part of that.

I can understand a rush to immediacy. That is in the next fiscal cycle. I think it is important we deal with it in a fair and balanced way. As it is written, already the circumstances of agriculture have changed significantly enough. We deserve to look at it in a broader spectrum.

We, the Senate, tonight acted to bring some immediacy to the difficulty you are expressing. There may be more to be done in the coming weeks as this whole difficulty with production agriculture can be addressed. I am not - appointed or appointed conference committee. I see that the Senate has approved the final conference of the United States.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, let the Record show I am speaking for myself, but let the Record show that there was no objection to moving for-