

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 345, S. 1873, the Missile Defense System legislation.

Trent Lott, Thad Cochran, Strom Thurmond, Jon Kyl, Conrad Burns, Dirk Kempthorne, Pat Roberts, Larry E. Craig, Ted Stevens, Rick Santorum, Judd Gregg, Tim Hutchinson, Jim Inhofe, Connie Mack, R.F. Bennett, and Jeff Sessions.

Mr. LOTT. For the information of all Senators, this cloture vote will occur on Wednesday, 1 hour after the Senate convenes and establishes a quorum, unless changed by unanimous consent. All Senators will be notified as to when cloture will actually be scheduled, but again, to reiterate, this cloture vote will occur sometime on Wednesday morning of next week.

I withdraw the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, 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.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. 1301

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to S. 1301, the bankruptcy bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. The request has been made to go to the bankruptcy bill which affects about 1,300,000 people in this country. We do have an opportunity to consider other legislation, like the HMO bill, that affects 120 million people, and we are being asked to go to the bankruptcy bill when we are not scheduling the campaign finance bill that passed the House of Representatives that involves the elimination of many of the abuses of campaign finance. Some are very concerned about the fact that some \$50 million have been expended by banks and credit card companies to move this legislation forward.

I am interested in inquiring of the leader whether we can have any indication as to when we might have the opportunity of scheduling these other measures which affect the average family, rather than special interests, such as the banks and the credit card companies. When I go back home, people talk to me about health care. It is the bankers and credit card people who are talking about the bankruptcy bill.

I wonder whether we are going to have any kind of assurance that we are going to move ahead with this legisla-

tion and we are going to have an opportunity to address and debate the merits of the Republican legislation, as well as the merits of the legislation, for example, on HMOs that has been introduced by the Democratic leader.

Mr. LOTT. Before I ask for the regular order, let me respond. I am perfectly prepared to go to the Patients' Bill of Rights bill. We have our bill ready to go. We would be glad for Senator KENNEDY to offer his bill. We have even offered to have three amendments on each bill and go to final passage. That offer still stands. It is a very fair offer. The minute the Senator and his leadership indicates they are willing to do that, we will be glad to go to both of those bills and have the votes and go to conclusion.

Regular order, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The regular order is, Is there objection?

Mr. KENNEDY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, 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.

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

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I want to give the Senator from Massachusetts one more opportunity to agree to our unanimous consent request that we go to the bankruptcy bill. So I ask unanimous consent, once again, that the Senate now turn to S. 1301, the bankruptcy bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, for the time being, for the moment, I object.

CONSUMER BANKRUPTCY PROTECTION ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I move to proceed, in light of the objection, to S. 1301, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provision of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 394, S. 1301, the Consumer Bankruptcy Protection Act:

Trent Lott, Orrin G. Hatch, Charles Grassley, Arlen Specter, Strom Thurmond, Connie Mack, Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Thad Cochran, Tim Hutchinson, Wayne Allard, Christopher Bond, Rod Grams, Rick Santorum, Chuck Hagel, Larry E. Craig, and Jon Kyl.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, this cloture vote will occur on Wednesday afternoon at a time to be determined and announced in advance, after consultation with the Democratic leader. We will talk to him, but it will be some time Wednesday afternoon. I do not know whether it will be 3 or 4, but something like that. All Senators will be notified exactly what time that vote will occur next Wednesday.

I now withdraw the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there be a period for the transaction of routine morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

Mr. GRASSLEY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEWINE). The Senator from Iowa.

THE BANKRUPTCY BILL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, we have just been delayed somewhat in the start of the bankruptcy bill. But I think it would still be appropriate to make some comments, even though in morning business, on the issue of why we need a bankruptcy bill.

I suggest, first of all, as the Senator from Massachusetts has correctly stated, there were 1.4 million bankruptcies last year. That was a 30-percent increase over the previous year. And the previous year was a big percentage increase over that previous year. So in the last 3 years we have seen an explosion of bankruptcy filings in the United States.

That is a tremendous economic problem. It is a problem for families that have to go through this. It is a problem for the consumers because bankruptcies raise costs for consumers. And there are lots of reasons for the rise in bankruptcies. In the 20 years since we have last had major bankruptcy legislation, we have seen a dramatic increase in bankruptcy filings, more than under any previous act. And we have had national bankruptcy legislation for 100 years this year.

In the period of time since we have had the latest bankruptcy legislation that was passed in the year 1978, out at the grassroots of America there has been a feeling that it is too easy to get into bankruptcy.

I don't want to say that a bankruptcy law, in and of itself, is the only reason we are having a high number of bankruptcy filings. But during this period of time in the last 20 years, I have had hundreds of people tell me that it is too easy to get into bankruptcy. I have had not one person say to me that