

to this bill often. I hoped the administration would support the language. So I was quietly running the language to the administration and certainly getting the support of the administration—if not openly, at least they were not opposed to it. We were working with them tacitly.

The very next day the tune changed, and the newspapers announced the administration was against the Byrd amendment. So they flip-flopped over night; they made a 180-degree turn over night. One day I had the confidence of them. They were looking at the language, making any responses they wished to make to express their viewpoint. The next day they were 100 percent on the other side.

So I say this amendment is a test. I say to the working men and women of America, do not believe the pretty words you may hear. Pretty words are easy. And I have heard pretty words myself. Watch what happens with this amendment, I say to the working men and women of America. Watch what happens to this amendment. See if the actions of those who say they are your friend do match those pretty promises.

I thank my distinguished friend and colleague. I am pleased to associate myself with his remarks. Well done, my friend.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I thank my senior colleague and I yield the floor, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Texas is recognized.

#### SOMETHING IS OUT OF BALANCE IN AMERICA

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, it is easy when you come to work every day in the most historic and important building in the world to forget you are part of history—to forget you are in a sacred place where history has been made in the past. But it is even easier to forget you are making history now.

But I am reminded that we are making history now when I listen to Senator BYRD speak with righteousness on behalf of the working people of West Virginia. And might I also say, I have never heard a more eloquent speech in the Senate than Senator CRAIG's speech that he gave earlier.

Having heard those speeches—including Senator MCCONNELL's and Senator ROCKEFELLER's—I do not want to rise to talk about the substance. I do not think you can improve on what they had to say. But there is an important point, at least in my mind, that I want to make; and that is, something is wrong in America. Something is out of balance in America.

If tomorrow in West Virginia a sub-species of crickets develop that have legs 6 millimeters longer than crickets as we know them, or that have brown or white specks on them, they would be protected before the law. They would be protected by the Endangered Species Act. There would literally be thou-

sands of people who would be willing to troop to West Virginia and hold signs and demand that this new sub-species of crickets be protected.

But yet when the livelihood of people who hear that alarm ring at 4:30 a.m. in the morning—and if you grew up in one of those houses—I know Senator BYRD did—the next sound you would hear is those two feet hitting the floor. It is predictable. You know what is going to happen, whether it is raining or whether it is not raining. These are people who get up every day, who work hard, who struggle to make ends meet, who sit down around the kitchen table on the first day of the month and get out that stub they got with their paycheck. Then they take the back of an envelope, or a piece of paper, and they try to figure out how they are going to be able to pay their bills, and who they can get by without paying this month. They contribute to America by producing things America needs.

I think something is out of kilter in America when our laws are more focused on protecting sub-species of crickets than they are focused on protecting people who earn a living with the sweat of their brow and with their hands.

I think something is very wrong in America when there does not seem to be much focus on working men and women. And what was moving to me about Senator BYRD's speech is he was speaking on behalf of the people who work with their hands, and who work for a living, and who often do not have much of a voice in American Government.

I am not here to criticize people who have focused, in some cases, their lives, their civic activity, and their leisure time activity on the environment. But I think something is wrong when, in focusing on the environment, we forget about people who work for a living and are affected.

I think, in some cases, environmentalism has gone too far. I think, in some cases, that it has become anti-growth. Maybe that makes sense if you live in a fancy air-conditioned house and if your children have gone to college. If you have boundless opportunities, it makes sense to say we need to protect the environment at all costs and that there is no burden that is too great to bear. After all, the person saying that already has a piece of the American pie and has already generally lived the American dream.

But I think what Senator BYRD has reminded us of is that not every American has lived the American dream. Not every American has gotten a piece of the pie.

I think when we have focused so much on a sub-species of crickets, it is about time that people in the Senate stand up and say: What about people who make a living in the mining industries of this country—people who have had placed on their livelihood less weight by American law than we place on the assumed well-being of sub-

species of crickets? I think something is out of balance in America. I think we need to bring it back into balance. I think we need to remind people who are so concerned about one particular element of the environment that there is no more basic part of the environment than the ability of the people in West Virginia, or Kentucky, or Texas, or any other State in the Union to make their house payment, or their ability to earn a livelihood, or their ability to have self-respect in their own worth of what they do.

We are not talking about tearing down America's environmental laws. No country in history has a better environment than we have. No country has spent more resources and legitimate effort on their environment than we have.

#### EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business extend until 6 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object—and I shall not—there are some of us who would like to speak on this debate concerning this particular issue and who have been waiting for a while. Could we get some sequence of order perhaps?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, Senator LANDRIEU is to follow, and Senator KOHL is to follow Senator LANDRIEU. There is no UC. Senator LANDRIEU was the last covered.

Mr. GRAMM. As far as I am aware, we have gone back and forth from the Democrat side to the Republican side. I have listened to five other people speak. I have been well served by hearing their speeches. I will be as brief as I can.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be in order of sequence on the Democratic side as we move back and forth.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, if we could simply accommodate every speaker, while realizing that we are waiting for the omnibus bill to come over from the House, may I suggest we amend that unanimous consent request so that the Senator be recognized in the order of the sequence we have, but that when the omnibus bill comes over from the House, it continue to take precedence?

Mr. KERRY. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KERRY. It is my understanding the Senator appropriately asked for an extension until 6. It is my understanding the Senator from Louisiana wants to speak for only 10 minutes, or less. The Senator from Minnesota wants 5 minutes. I think if we could get an order, we could contain it within the time and everybody would be satisfied. I ask the Senator from Alaska how long he wants to speak.