

Federal level without a clue as to whether or not any of them are working or doing any good. My guess is that some of them are probably counter-productive.

A lot of people want to pass, as a part of a bill, to have youthful offenders sentenced as adults. In some cases, if States want to do that, that is fine with me. But we were going to impose a requirement that all States sentence youthful offenders as adults within certain categories until we found out that the way it plays out in some cases is they would get less time as an adult than they would in a juvenile facility.

There is just an awful lot we don't know.

Why should we be forcing States to adhere to some kind of a national standard as to how long a person ought to serve for a list of crimes? If we really believe we ought to do that, why don't we just go ahead and do it directly?

We have seen the benefit of a system our Founding Fathers established over and over and over again. This is not just textbook stuff. It has to do with power, and the use of power, and who is going to use power, and how concentrated you want it. It has to do with innovation. It has to do with experimentation. It has to do with good competition among the States. We have seen welfare reform, education choice, competitive tax policies, and public-private partnerships all thrive at the State level. Good things are happening.

This law is another step away from all of that, another step toward Federal centralization and the monopolizing of criminal policy in this country. I could not let this go and could not let this pass without making that abundantly clear once again.

I yield the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank Senator THOMPSON for his consistency and for the remarks he just made. I don't know that it will sway the vote, but it is certainly worth contemplating what he just said.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—H.R. 4635

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, after extensive collaboration with Senator DASCHLE, we have come to this consensus which we believe is in the best interests of all concerned.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 801, H.R. 4635, the HUD-VA appropriations bill, on Thursday at 9:30 a.m., the committee substitute be agreed to, one amendment which will be offered by Senator BOND and Senator MIKULSKI be immediately agreed to, and the bill time be limited to the following:

Fifteen minutes under the control of Senator MCCAIN;

Five minutes under the control of Senator KYL;

Ten minutes equally divided between the subcommittee chairman and ranking minority member;

Ten minutes equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the full committee.

I further ask unanimous consent that there be one amendment in order by Senator DASCHLE, or his designee, regarding the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill, and following the offering of that amendment there be 10 minutes for debate to be equally divided in the usual form, and no amendments be in order to the amendment.

I further ask unanimous consent that following the vote relative to the Byrd amendment, Senator BOXER be recognized to offer up to two first-degree amendments relative to environmental dredging, drinking water regulations, and Clean Air Act area designation, and there be up to 30 minutes of debate on each amendment to be equally divided in the usual form, with no other amendments in order, and the amendments not be divisible.

I further ask unanimous consent that following disposition of the amendments just described, the bill be advanced to third reading and passage occur, all without any intervening action or debate.

I further ask unanimous consent that the votes just described occur beginning at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday and there be 2 minutes before each vote for explanation.

I further ask unanimous consent that following the vote, the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate, those conferees being the entire subcommittee, including Senators STEVENS and BYRD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—H.R. 4516

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that immediately following the vote on the adoption of the HUD-VA bill on Thursday, the motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which the conference report to accompany H.R. 4516 was not agreed to be immediately agreed to, and the vote occur on the conference report immediately, without any intervening action or debate.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—H.R. 4733 VETO MESSAGE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the veto message with respect to the conference report accompanying H.R. 4733 be considered as having been read, printed in the RECORD and spread in full upon the Journal, and the message then be referred to the Appropriations Committee.

Before the Chair grants this request, I would like to say to my colleagues

that, unfortunately, the Senate does not have the votes to override this veto. I still believe strongly that the energy and water appropriations conference report should not have been vetoed and that there is a real threat of danger as a result of the provisions that are in controversy. The vote in the Senate was 57-37, which is a very strong vote. But at this point it appears there certainly would not be sufficient votes to override the President's veto.

I regret the veto. The Senate needs to proceed now to complete these appropriations bills, and therefore we have had to go through the process as just be outlined in these previous unanimous consent requests. Therefore, this consent addresses the immediate concern of the veto message entering the Senate Chamber.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, while Senator DASCHLE is here, he may want to make comments. I thank him again for working to help get this agreement worked out, as Senator REID certainly has been helpful, and Senator BOND, chairman of the committee, and Senator MIKULSKI, ranking member of the HUD-VA appropriations subcommittee; they have done good work.

As a result of these agreements, we will be able to act tomorrow on the HUD-VA appropriations bill, the energy and water appropriations bill, as will be modified to put in the agreed-to language with regard to section 103, and we also will then have the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill included in this process.

We will continue to work after this vote at 4:30 to get an agreement with regard to the time and a vote on the Defense authorization bill. We are working through the difficulties which are probably on this side; maybe on both sides. We will try to work that out, and also a time when a vote will occur on the Agriculture appropriations conference report.

I will have to communicate some more. I thought it important to go ahead and get these agreements lined up.

I remind Members, we have two votes scheduled at 4:30.

Mr. DASCHLE. I commend the majority leader for his work in reaching this agreement and compliment and thank Members on both sides of the aisle.

We have to be realists as we try to finish our work at the end of this session. Being realists means we don't get it exactly the way we want it. Obviously, many Members have serious problems about the way we are proceeding. We, nonetheless, realize we have to get the work done. While it may not be pretty, it will get the work done. That is ultimately what we are here to do.

To clarify what this agreement does with regard to some of the concerns