

Mr. LOTT. I certainly expected that. I know there are Senators who do object to that. This is very important legislation which needs to be enacted into the law. I appreciate the procedural cooperation we have had.

The bill has been debated for weeks, and many amendments have been offered on both sides. Minimum wage was offered, as a matter of fact, to this bill while it was pending on the Senate floor, but minimum wage now is going to be put in the tax relief package we have been discussing.

The bankruptcy bill ultimately passed by a vote of 83-14, so I will file cloture on this bill probably Sunday or Monday so we can get to a cloture vote and complete its action.

#### NATIONAL ENERGY SECURITY OF 2000—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to S. 2557.

#### MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to the continuing resolution, H. J. Res. 117, that no motions or amendments be in order, and the time between now and 3:15 p.m. be equally divided between the two leaders. I also ask unanimous consent that the vote occur on adoption of H.J. Res. 117 at 3:15 p.m. and paragraph 4 of rule XII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, no objection.

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

Mr. LOTT. Therefore, the next vote will occur at 3:15 this afternoon.

Mr. President, for the information of Senators who are interested in the schedule, it is expected that the vote at 3:15 p.m. will be the last vote of the day. However, at this time, in view of the need for continuing resolutions, unless some different agreement can be worked out, we will be expected to have votes on Saturday and on Sunday with continuing resolutions.

Of course, there is serious work underway right now on the matters of disagreement. I note Saturday is the sabbath for a number of our colleagues and for observant Jews, and Sunday is my sabbath. I prefer we get a CR that will take us to Monday while we continue to work, but we have not been able to enter into that agreement yet. If necessary, we will be here and voting on CRs on Saturday and on Sunday. It is my expectation that vote will come late in the afternoon or early evening on Saturday.

Also, again, Senator STEVENS from the Appropriations Committee and the appropriators are meeting right now on the final details of the Labor-HHS bill.

There is also some discussion about how we can move some of the problem issues out of the CSJ bill that has been reported out of conference and passed by the House. Corrections or changes, if agreed to, could be entered into the Labor-HHS bill.

I do want you to know the appropriators are busily working in their magical way, and I am sure at sometime a cone of honey will be produced, or maybe that is the wrong terminology to use, but they are getting closer to agreements. I hope it is something that can be signed, or I hope it is something I can vote for, too. Both of those are undetermined at this point. I know Senator KERRY wants to make further comments about an earlier issue. We now have 3 hours and 15 minutes to talk about the CR or other issues Senators wish.

Mr. STEVENS. Will the Senator yield for a moment?

Mr. LOTT. I will yield since I invoked the name of the distinguished chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. STEVENS. My name came up as a magician. I am Aladdin. I rub the lamp.

Mr. LOTT. Very good. That is right, and I hope you will start rubbing it very fast.

Mr. STEVENS. I am supposed to bring you out of the lamp.

Mr. LOTT. All right.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I have to inform the Senate that if we finish the Health and Human Services bill today—we are in good-faith negotiations, and we expect to be quite late today—that bill could not be finished in terms of its reading out and printing and being available to both sides until Monday afternoon at the earliest.

I hope we can get some consideration from the administration and from everyone to understand that. We would have two sessions—one on Saturday and one on Sunday. Some people work on their sabbath and some people do not. We have a staff who will be working, in spite of that, around the clock to read the legislation. There are some 40 pieces of legislation, in addition to the bill itself, that will be in the Health and Human Services bill; at least that will be our recommendation.

I urge that somehow or another I be allowed to offer an amendment to this continuing resolution and make it Tuesday night. I have told the White House and OMB that there is no way, even if we finish tonight, that we can take it up tomorrow or take it up Sunday. We will not be able to take it up until Monday night. The White House should know that, OMB should know that, and I hope the minority agrees with us.

We cannot vote on this bill, the major wrapup piece of legislation, until, at the earliest in the Senate, Tuesday. The House may be able to vote on it Monday night. To argue over a CR that takes us to tomorrow and to argue over one that takes us to Sunday

and one that takes us to Monday, when there is nothing we can do about finishing up this Congress, is just demonstrating our inability to deal with reality.

I hope the leader will allow me some time today to offer a motion to amend that CR and make it Tuesday. I have discussed it with the House, and they are in session. They can adopt it and send it to the President. Somehow or another, this idea we can only go day to day and we can produce something tomorrow that we have not finished today, when we have just one bill left which itself cannot be finished until Monday night, I think is foolhardy. I am prepared to challenge the President and all of his people to come to reality.

The discussions are being held with his people. If we do not finish them tonight, we will finish them tomorrow. If we do not finish them until tomorrow, it will be Tuesday morning before it is read out.

Maybe people do not understand what we do. Each side has a copy of the final provisions. Each reads it through, and we call in the people from the committees involved to be sure the provisions are correct. Then we get together and our staffs read it together, and each makes certain the other has not made any changes in it. And that will not be finished. It will take at least 20 hours of reading to do that. It will not be finished until Monday night.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I say to the Senator from Alaska, we do not quite know what the appropriators do. I am not sure we really want to. We wish you the best because at least all of our schedules are in your hands, if not our lives. But I think what the Senator is saying is eminently reasonable. I urge you to get Senator BYRD to discuss that with the leadership on the other side, and if you talk with Senator REID, we will communicate with the administration and hopefully maybe by 3:15 p.m. we can take that reasonable action. I certainly would support it. But we have to get an agreement.

I yield the floor.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, if I may respond, I am confident the leader on our side wants to be as reasonable as possible. The issue on our side has been, as we said earlier, the level of progress, No. 1, and No. 2, the question of inclusivity.

What the chairman just said suggests there is a lot more inclusivity, and I presume reasonable minds will prevail at an appropriate time. A judgment has to be made by the administration and the minority leader with the level of progress. I am confident that will happen.

If I may continue, Mr. President, for a moment. Would it be appropriate at this point in time—Senator WYDEN has been waiting for a long time; I know the Senator from Texas has been waiting. I want to make a few comments yielding myself time off our time for a brief moment—I will be brief—at which point, may we have a unanimous consent agreement?