the allies. We rebuilt Europe. We built the tanks in the United States, and the planes and the ships that saved the world.' Could we do it again?

That is a serious question.

Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point plant near Baltimore recently produced the steel plate to repair the USS *Cole*. It is the only mill in America that still produces the armor plate for Navy ships.

America must never become dependent on foreign suppliers—like Russia and China—for the steel we need to defend our nation and freedom around the world. But we are headed in that direction. Already, the United States is one of the few steel-producing countries that is a net importer of steel.

America imported more than 30 million tons of steel last year.

President Bush took an important first step to help America's steel industry by imposing broad temporary tariffs on imported steel.

I was disappointed that the tariffs are 30 percent or less—phased out over the 3 years they are in effect rather than 40 percent tariffs for 4 years the steel industry and steelworkers sought. I was disappointed that the tariffs don't cover slab steel. But I appreciate the President's action under section 201.

Tariffs are an important step to give America's steel industry a chance to restructure and recover with some protection from the deluge of below-cost foreign steel, but they are not the only step needed to help American steel.

The tariffs help the industry. Now it is time to help the workers and retirees who will lose their healthcare if their companies go under.

The Daschle amendment provided a temporary 1-year extension of health benefits to qualified steel retirees.

The health care extensions for steel retirees are similar to TAA health care benefits for workers who lose their jobs as a result of trade agreements. Workers could have 2 years of health care benefits. Retirees would only have 1 year of benefits.

Just like the temporary tariffs give the companies breathing room to recover, a temporary extension of benefits give workers and retirees breathing room to find a long-term plan. It gives them time to plan—time that the workers and retirees of LTV didn't have. They lost their benefits overnight.

Supporting producers is in the national interest. The policy of our Government is to support producers when it is in the national interest. National interest means national responsibility. It is important to support farmers to make sure we have the producers to be food-independent.

I am happy to stand up for our farmers whether they are chicken producers on the Eastern Shore or corn growers in the Midwest.

We spend about $19 billion a year on farmers—$656 billion over the past 10 years. This does not include $17 billion in emergency appropriations for our farmers, and it looks like these subsidies are increasing.

Congress passed a $100 billion farm bill. The President said he will sign it. It calls for a $73 billion increase in farm subsidies over the next 6 years.

This farm bill includes a $3 billion subsidy for peanuts, up to $30,000 per farmer for livestock subsidies, and a $3 billion subsidy for cotton.

Since 1996, we have provided over $5 billion for cotton producers—three-quarters of those funds went to just 18,000 farmers. I love cotton. It is the fabric of our lives. But cotton is not more important than steel.

I have supported aid to farmers. So have most of the opponents of steel. I would ask them why. Why do farmers get bail-out after bail-out, yet our steel workers can't get this modest help?

Farmers work hard, but no harder than steelworkers. Farmers provide vital commodities. So do steelworkers. Our Nation must never be dependent on foreign food, and it must never be dependent on foreign steel.

It is not just farmers. Congress gave the airlines $15 billion after September 11 because of a national emergency. That was the right thing to do. Now, we need to stand up for steel.

Make no mistake, this is a national emergency for steel. Standing up for steel is in the national interest just like farmers, just like airlines.

I was moved by the stories of Mrs. Misterka and others at the hearing a few weeks ago as was everyone in the hearing room. I feel very close to these workers and retirees. I grew up down the road from the Beth Steel mill in Baltimore. My dad had a grocery store that he opened extra early so the steelworkers on the morning shift could come in and buy their lunch. The workers at Beth Steel weren't units of production, they were our neighbors. They are our neighbors.

And what did we know about the Bethlehem Steel Plant? It was a union job with good wages and good benefits so our neighbors could go to work, put in an honest day, and get fair pay back to raise their families and pursue the American dream.

We were all proud of our workers at Bethlehem Steel. In World War II and Vietnam they rolled gun barrels, made steel for grenades, provided steel for the shipyards that turned out Liberty ships very 3 weeks. Today, Beth Steel made the steel plates to repair the USS *Cole* after the terrorist bombing damaged the ship.

Most of Beth Steel workers are Beth Steel workers for their entire careers—30, 40, 50 years on the job, every day despite the aches and pains, the bad back, the varicose veins that age steelworkers beyond their years. Their commitment to Beth Steel is a commitment to America doing the work that needs to get done for fair pay and a secure future. The futures that once looked secure are now at risk through no fault of their own. It is time we stand up for steelworkers and help them in their time of need just like they helped America every step of the way.

This is not the end of the story. I will continue to fight for America's steel workers.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Maryland for accommodating both Senator LOTT and me as we talk about the current circumstances involving the pending legislation.

Let me also say how much I share her point of view. Maybe I am not able to demonstrate the same passion as Senator MIKULSKI has indicated, the strength of feeling that she has about the issue involving her steelworker retirees—but I certainly share her conviction.

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, as we have been noting throughout the last several hours, a number of our colleagues have been in discussion and negotiation involving the trade adjustment assistance part of the package that is pending before us. I am very pleased to announce that an agreement has been reached. The agreement is one that involved the administration, Republicans, and Democrats who have been involved in this issue for some time now.

I might just briefly outline it. I will leave to the manager of the bill and the ranking member to discuss the matter in greater detail tomorrow morning.

As I understand it, they intend to lay down the amendment tomorrow. It will be, then, the pending business.

I also encourage Senators to offer amendments tomorrow and Monday. Senator LOTT and I have discussed the schedule. I am prepared to say as a result of this agreement that there will be no votes tomorrow, but I encourage Senators to avail themselves of the opportunity they now have, tonight or tomorrow or Monday, to offer amendments.

We will consider votes for those amendments on Monday night. We have already announced there will be a vote on a judge at 6 o'clock on Monday. We can accommodate additional votes immediately following that vote, should amendments be offered and should we be in a position, then, to dispose of them by Monday afternoon.

But the agreement has a number of components. The trade adjustment assistance for more workers—that will provide at least 65,500 new workers with trade adjustment assistance, according to the reports that I have just been given, unprecedented health care coverage for harmed workers, a 70-percent COBRA subsidy for tax credit for employers and other institutions, and benefits that match the 2-year training period. Workers would receive income assistance for at least 18 months while they were retraining for up to 2 years.

Then there also would be wage insurance for older workers as well.

There are a number of components. I will not speak at length about the specifics of the package until the agreement is ready to be presented tomorrow morning. But I hope the final formulation of the language to accommodate this agreement can be prepared so that the amendment will be provided for all colleagues tomorrow, will be offered, and will be part of the pending business as we consider amendments to this, and other amendments.

Senator LOTT and I have agreed that there would be an understanding that as this package is agreed to as it relates to those issues involving TAA, we would entertain it.

There is also an understanding that an amendment that would allow for consideration of assistance for retired steelworkers for health purposes would be entertained. And we will have that debate, and an amendment will be offered. A point of order, of course, will be made against my language. And we understand that. Once that point of order has been made, this compromise package will be offered.

I am appreciative of the work that has gone into reaching this agreement. I am disappointed, obviously, that we couldn't do more. But I am also appreciative of the fact that we have to move on and that Senators who wish to offer other legislation are entitled to do so.

I thank all of my colleagues for the effort that has been made. I hope this will now accelerate our prospects for completing this bill and allowing us to address the deadline that exists for the Andean Trade Preference Act especially.

I yield.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, just a couple of clarifications, and a statement of what I believe our understanding is:

First of all, I believe—we talked about this earlier—there still needs to be a point of order made against the package that was filed, and there would be enough votes to sustain that point of order.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, in response to the Republican leader, it would not be my desire to challenge the point of order.

Mr. LOTT. When the point of order is made, at that point we will move forward with the agreement we have in regard to TAA. Amendments would be in order on the rest of the underlying package, TPA, trade promotion authority, and the Andean Trade Preference Act. Is that the Senator's understanding?

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, the Senator is correct.

Mr. LOTT. We have had an opportunity to quickly review the components of this compromise agreement. It has been a bipartisan effort. The administration has had input. I believe all parties are agreed to support it. There could still be amendments that would be offered, or entertained, as Senator DASCHLE said. But I believe the negotiators are prepared to defend the agreement and oppose amendments that would change that.

I want to state very firmly that it would be my intent to do the same thing. If we don't do that, we begin to pick apart the agreement, and then there is no agreement.

But I believe good work has been done. All parties have made some concessions. I think, though, that it is going to have significant assistance for those who need this transition assistance, and this will set a process up that can get us a bill.

I hope Senator DASCHLE will join me in opposing amendments that could undermine the agreement which we have.

Further, I observe that I am glad we will be having votes on Monday. I think we are going to have to do serious work. I understand Senators have amendments on both sides that will be offered. But we do need to try to finish the bill next week. I think we are going to have to look at how we are guaranteed that is done while Senators have a chance to make their case. That is a delicate balance, as is everything in the Senate. It always takes understanding and cooperation, and we are going to do that.

Senator DASCHLE and I both are going to have to provide leadership with which our entire caucuses won't always agree. But that is how business is done. I think we have done the right thing here. I intend to support this agreement and work on getting this very important legislation completed.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I wish to make one clarification which Senator LOTT and I have already made. I said this privately, but I want to say for the record that I will oppose an amendment to improve this package or to detract from this package on trade adjustment assistance.

Obviously, we are open to consider amendments on other matters relating to the bill. But on this particular package, the one additional part of the agreement that I stated—and I want to reiterate again—is there is an understanding that Senators would be free to offer amendments having to do with steelworkers. I intend to support that amendment. I have indicated that to Senator LOTT. But that is outside of this agreement. That was part of the understanding we had as this negotiation was completed.

I wanted to make that clarification.

I will say for the record what I said privately to Senator LOTT. That amendment will be part of the overall debate on the bill, and I do intend to support it.

I yield to the Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I think the majority leader stated or clarified what my questions were.

As I understand it, there is a compromise but the compromise does not include a bridge to help steel retirees. But part of the conversation was that a steel retiree amendment would be in order. I believe we will have the support and votes. Senator ROCKEFELLER and I intend to offer an amendment at an appropriate time.

I also support the majority leader when he said he would not ask for a rollcall vote on the point of order.

As of yesterday, I wanted a rollcall vote, to drag it out, and raise the roof. But then it would be parliamentary tactics.

I think this topic is so serious that for the good of the Nation, and for the way I feel about my steelworkers and those who have been hurt, I don't want to engage in a time-consuming and dilatory practice.

I will not ask for a rollcall vote now that we have an assurance that we will be able to offer our amendment. I thank the leader for his advocacy on that.

I wanted to be clear that I will not ask for a rollcall on the point of order, so that we can get to the compromise and get to the amendments, and maybe get to really helping those people who have been injured by trade.

I have other comments I want to make about steel. I think I will save those for my statement later on about why they are in this crisis, why this is a national security issue, and why it is an economic security issue.

I think we are going to have a framework for proceeding on an amendment. Senator ROCKEFELLER and I will be able to offer that, if not tomorrow, over the next coming days.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I don't want to dice and slice there too closely, but I want to clarify that the negotiators and I believe Senator DASCHLE and I are prepared to support the components of this compromise agreement even though not all of it was in the TAA area. Obviously, other amendments may be offered on trade promotion assistance, and we will have an opportunity to offer those. But we will defend the components of the compromise.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, that is true. I said a moment ago that it is my intention to oppose amendments—with the clarification I made on the steel issue—that would alter this agreement with all of its components. I think Senator LOTT and I are in agreement on that. That is the intention of leadership as amendments are offered.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and 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. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, what is the pending business?