

the tenor of the Senator's debate—interesting debate—he is critical of the NAFTA agreement, one of the three free trade agreements passed by the Senate, two of which passed almost unanimously—the Jordanian trade agreement and the free trade agreement with Israel. NAFTA was not quite as unanimous. But did the Senator vote in favor of those three free trade agreements?

Mr. DORGAN. No, I did not vote in favor of NAFTA, I did not vote in favor of the U.S.-Canada agreement, and I did not vote in favor of GATT.

Mr. NICKLES. Did the Senator vote in favor of the Israel or Jordan free trade agreements?

Mr. DORGAN. I did. And it is ironic that the Senator who makes the point about the Jordan agreement voted to keep the Jordan agreement labor standards out of this fast-track legislation.

I voted for the bilateral trade agreements that the Senator From Oklahoma mentioned, but I did not vote for NAFTA, I did not vote for United States-Canada Agreement, and I did not vote for GATT. Those agreements have led to huge deficits. These numbers do not represent success, not in North Dakota and not in Oklahoma. These growing massive deficits are choking our country. I would love it if the Senator from Oklahoma will join me sometime in a debate on trade on the floor of the Senate.

It is hard to get people to agree to do that, but if the Senator from Oklahoma would, I would love to have the opportunity.

Mr. NICKLES. I thank my friend.

Mr. DORGAN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. The Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. NICKLES, is going to speak. First, I ask unanimous consent that following the previously ordered sequence of speakers, Senator SARBANES be recognized to speak for up to 15 minutes, and Senator KENNEDY be recognized for up to 30 minutes, with the previous provision regarding Republican speakers remaining in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. NICKLES. Did the Senator say Senator SARBANES and then Senator KENNEDY?

Mr. REID. Yes, but a Republican can come in between if they care to.

Mr. NICKLES. I believe Senator KENNEDY may be speaking on a different nontrade issue.

Mr. REID. If there is an objection, the rights of the Republicans are preserved.

Mr. NICKLES. I would like to reserve some time for a Republican to be able to follow Senator KENNEDY.

Mr. REID. The Senator has that right.

Mr. NICKLES. Will the Senator modify his request?

Mr. REID. Yes, I will do that in the next one.

Mr. NICKLES. Well, if Senator KENNEDY is going to be speaking on minimum wage, I would like for a Republican, likewise, to have an opportunity to speak on that.

Mr. REID. If that is the desire of the Senator, we have no problem with that. Following Senator KENNEDY, that would be fine.

Mr. NICKLES. For 15 minutes?

Mr. REID. Fine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

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UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—  
CONFERENCE REPORT TO AC-  
COMPANY H.R. 3448

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following the statement of Senator KENNEDY and/or the Republican who would follow him for 15 minutes, the Senate proceed to the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3448, the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Response Act, notwithstanding rule XXII, and that it be considered under the following limitations: That there be 90 minutes for debate on the conference report, with the time equally divided and controlled between the chairman and ranking member of the HELP Committee, or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to a vote on the adoption of the conference report, without further intervening action or debate, provided further that all time utilized under this consent be charged postcloture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. NICKLES. Reserving the right to object—and we may have clearance, but we need to finalize it—I am delighted with this request. I am delighted it looks like we are now going to be able to pass the Public Health Safety and Bioterrorism Response Act. My guess is it will pass overwhelmingly, maybe unanimously, through the Senate.

Could the Senator withhold the request for a moment and let me doublecheck with other Senators? I will be happy to put through the question.

Mr. REID. I will be happy to withhold.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

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ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE  
EXPANSION ACT—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 3447

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I thank my friend and colleague from Nevada.

We are considering a lot of amendments. I know the chairman of the Finance Committee has been working through amendments. We have been working through amendments as well, and we are going to get into a situation

where we have a lot of votes. For the information of our colleagues and particularly our colleague and friend from West Virginia, Senator BYRD, who has three or four amendments, one of which is second degreed by our friend and colleague from South Carolina, Senator HOLLINGS.

Senator BYRD's amendment in the first degree deals with a congressional oversight group that changes in composition.

Right now, the oversight for trade is in the Finance Committee. I happen to serve on the Finance Committee, so I was interested in the composition of the congressional oversight group. It talks about the oversight from the House. I notice in the House group, it consists of the majority leader and minority leader, and eight additional members would be appointed by the Speaker of the House, four each from the minority and majority. It also says none of the eight members appointed under this paragraph will be members of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Then it says the membership in the Senate congressional oversight group shall be comprised of the following Members of the Senate: President pro tempore of the Senate, Senator BYRD; minority leader and majority leader; eight additional Members appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, four members from the majority after consulting with the majority leader, and four members from the minority party after consulting with the minority leader of the Senate.

Then it also says that none of the eight members appointed under this paragraph may be members of the Committee on Finance.

I am a member of the Finance Committee, and I do not want to have that jurisdiction taken away from the Finance Committee. So I am going to oppose this amendment. At some point, I am going to move to table the amendment. I would not want to table the amendment of the Senator from West Virginia without notifying him and giving him a chance to debate. Maybe he has debated it and I missed that debate, but I was not aware until a few moments ago of the impact of this new oversight committee, which would exclude members of the Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over trade.

I would think Democrats and Republicans who serve on the Finance Committee would not like to find out that an area over which they have jurisdiction and over which they have some responsibility, on which they have had hearings, would be excluded from this oversight committee.

That is my purpose of speaking now. It is not for total debate but to let my colleague from West Virginia know that at some point, not immediately—as a matter of fact, it will be after the 2:30 briefing by the FBI Director—a motion will be made to table the underlying Byrd amendment dealing with the oversight group. I wanted my colleague to be aware of that.