

we would be amending. It puts us in a very difficult position.

Having said all of that, certainly this measure is vitally important. I have already been talking to Senator DASCHLE about what is the best way to go to it, what is the earliest time we could go to it. Even if we took it up and some wanted time later on tonight or tomorrow, it looks to me as if it would take quite some time to get it done. We would not be able to get into conference with the House before we come back from the Memorial Day recess.

I am hoping we could go ahead and talk back and forth and try to get agreement that when we come back from the recess, if we don't get some agreement worked out otherwise, it would be the pending business or we would quickly get a process so we could start work on it Monday when we come back or Tuesday, the 4th, and hopefully get agreement relatively quickly, even with amendments, once people know what they are amending, and then be able to get it right on in to the conference with the House.

Clearly, we do need to get this done. I must say that it has been a slow process. The request from the administration was slow coming. The bill coming from the House has been slow. Now here we are right up against this recess. It has not been the best way to do it.

It is about \$4 billion more than what the President asked. I am sure the mix within that \$31 billion has been changed. We need to take a look at it. Hurriedly, we have been trying to go through what has been added. Clearly, a lot of it is not national defense or homeland security related: things such as the senior farmer's market nutrition program, money for a national polar orbiting operating environmental satellite system, some amount of money for attorney retention allowance for the District for attorneys that, even though they got a bonus for staying with DC, they subsequently became union members and were not entitled to the bonus. This would say they can keep the bonus. There is U.N. population fund language in here which always causes a fuss.

Just looking hurriedly over the amendments on agriculture, justice, commerce, DOD, education, a lot of issues that would not be described in any way as relating to national defense and homeland security, we need a little time to review all this and see what amendments may be necessary.

I must say—I know Senator BYRD understands this—I always am very antsy about proceeding without Senator STEVENS being around when we are doing appropriations bills. So that is a factor, too.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 2551

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent—this is a modification of the earlier request—that the

Senate would proceed to the House supplemental appropriations bill on Monday, June 3, at a time to be determined by the majority leader after consultation with the Republican leader so we could get to this bill immediately upon our return.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I object, for two reasons. First, it seems to me the whole issue is urgency. We are talking about defense and homeland security. If there is any urgency to making the commitment to getting the work done, it ought to be now, not a week or 10 days from now.

Secondly, we don't know when the House will produce the bill. Perhaps the House will complete its work; perhaps it will not. We know we have a job to do. As we have done on so many other occasions, we have done our work and waited for the House to act. If the House completes its work, perhaps that is something we can do. But we are not in a position to know what the House is going to do. Obviously, it would be very difficult for us to build a consent agreement around House action that may or may not take place.

I do object. I do recognize, as the Senator from Mississippi, the distinguished Republican leader, has noted, we will have to reach some agreement. If it can't be done now, it will have to be done soon. It is disappointing that it cannot be done now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. McCAIN. I want to mention just an example of why we need to go through this legislation. It has just been pointed out to me, here is \$2 million in this bill, which is entitled "Supplemental Appropriation Act for Further Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States"—that is the title of this legislation—

Other related agencies, Smithsonian Institution construction, \$2 million: the committee recommends an amount of \$2 million within construction to initiate the planning and design of an alcohol collection storage facility. The Smithsonian holds the largest collection of this kind in the world, and at present a large portion of it is stored in the National Museum of Natural History. The Smithsonian has requested this amount and the fiscal year 2003 budget estimate indicates it is a most important safety and security project.

Given this information, the committee has advanced the appropriation of funds required in planning and design in order to accelerate the project.

All of those bugs that are stored in alcohol in the Smithsonian—when we are trying to recover from and respond to the terrorist attacks on the United States by moving some alcohol encased bugs from one facility to another—this is another example of why in the world we need to examine this legislation.

The Senator from Pennsylvania is going to be recognized. There is a pro-

vision in this bill that is far more serious than moving bugs stored in alcohol for \$2 million. That has to do with the aviation program. The legislation was passed by this body overwhelmingly because of the danger of airlines going bankrupt, and now one major airline at least will not be eligible for loans because there is not enough money there and we are going to see major airlines in America go bankrupt if we don't avoid that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SANTORUM. Madam President, I want to pick up on what the Senator from Arizona said. He is ranking member on the Commerce Committee. They worked diligently on putting together the aviation loan program. One airline has access to the program, and that happens to be America West. There is another airline that is on the brink of bankruptcy that is hemorrhaging money right now, but it has brought in a management team to restructure the airline. Part of this restructuring plan is US Airways' access to this fund. What is in the appropriations bill will deny them access to this fund until the fall of this year, which may be too late for them to be able to get the adequate capital to continue operation. We may be bankrupting an airline that serves the whole northeastern quadrant of the United States for I don't know what reason.

I have no idea why this provision is in here, but we are pulling the rug out from under an airline that was probably the airline most affected by 9-11. This is the airline with its hub at Reagan National, which was shut down and flights were restricted. This is an airline that flew out of New York, and it served the area most impacted by 9-11. And now we have an appropriations bill that is going to probably deny them survival. It is the most impacted airline by 9-11 and we have a bill here that is supposed to help us recover from 9-11, and it may be the death knell of the airline.

The bottom line is, this bill is not ready for passage. There are serious changes that must be made in this legislation for this bill to go through the Senate.

ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE
EXPANSION ACT—Continued

Mr. REID. What is the order before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The last 10 minutes of debate are reserved by the Senator from West Virginia.

The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 3527

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, what is the question before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Amendment No. 3527 by the Senator from South Carolina to amendment No. 3447 offered by the Senator from West Virginia.