The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006—CONFERENCE REPORT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 2863, the Defense appropriations bill.

Mr. REID. I object.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I move to proceed to the conference report.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senators were necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 359 Leg.]

YEAS—94

Akaka	Dorgan	Mikulski
Alexander	Durbin	Murkowski
Allard	Ensign	Murray
Allen	Enzi	Nelson (FL)
Baucus	Feingold	Nelson (NE)
Bayh	Feinstein	Obama
Bennett	Frist	Pryor
Bingaman	Graham	Reed
Bond	Grassley	Reid
Boxer	Gregg	Roberts
Brownback	Hagel	Rockefeller
Bunning	Harkin	Salazar
Burns	Hatch	Santorum
Byrd	Hutchison	Sarbanes
Cantwell	Inhofe	Schumer
Carper	Inouye	Sessions
Chafee	Isakson	Shelby
Chambliss	Johnson	Smith
Clinton	Kennedy	Snowe
Coburn	Kerry	Specter
Cochran	Kohl	Stabenow
Coleman	Kyl	Stevens
Collins	Landrieu	Sununu
Conrad	Lautenberg	Talent
Cornyn	Leahy	Thomas
Craig	Levin	Thune
Crapo	Lieberman	Vitter
Dayton	Lincoln	Voinovich
DeMint	Lott	Warner
DeWine	Lugar	Wyden
Dole	Martinez	
Domenici	McConnell	

NAYS—1

Jeffords

NOT VOTING—5

Biden	Corzine	McCain
Burr	Dodd	

The motion was agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2863) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate, and agree to the same with an amendment, and the Senate agree to the same, Signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

(The conference report is printed in the RECORD in the Proceedings of the House on Sunday, December 18, 2005.)

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2863, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2006.

Bill Frist, John Cornyn, John Thune, Jeff Sessions, Lindsey Graham, Saxby Chambliss, Richard Shelby, Jon Kyl, Mike Crapo, Mitch McConnell, Ted Stevens, Thad Cochran, C.S. Bond, Conrad Burns, Pete Domenici, Judd Gregg, John Warner.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I move to proceed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 1815, the Defense authorization bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senators were necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARTINEZ). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 360 Leg.]

YEAS—95

Akaka	Dorgan	McConnell
Alexander	Durbin	Mikulski
Allard	Ensign	Murkowski
Allen	Enzi	Murray
Baucus	Feingold	Nelson (FL)
Bayh	Feinstein	Nelson (NE)
Bennett	Frist	Obama
Bingaman	Graham	Pryor
Bond	Grassley	Reed
Boxer	Gregg	Reid
Brownback	Hagel	Roberts
Bunning	Harkin	Rockefeller
Burns	Hatch	Salazar
Byrd	Hutchison	Santorum
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sarbanes
Carper	Inouye	Schumer
Chafee	Isakson	Sessions
Chambliss	Jeffords	Shelby
Clinton	Johnson	Smith
Coburn	Kennedy	Snowe
Cochran	Kerry	Specter
Coleman	Kohl	Stabenow
Collins	Kyl	Stevens
Conrad	Landrieu	Sununu
Cornyn	Lautenberg	Talent
Craig	Leahy	Thomas
Crapo	Levin	Thune
Dayton	Lieberman	Vitter
DeMint	Lincoln	Voinovich
DeWine	Lott	Warner
Dole	Lugar	Wyden
Domenici	Martinez	

NOT VOTING—5

Biden	Corzine	McCain
Burr	Dodd	

The motion was agreed to.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1815), to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate, and agree to the same with an amendment, and the Senate agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is reprinted in the House proceedings of the RECORD of Sunday, December 18, 2005.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 1815, the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2006.

Bill Frist, John Warner, Mel Martinez, Lisa Murkowski, Mitch McConnell, Bob Bennett, George Allen, John Thune, Michael B. Enzi, Jeff Sessions, Johnny Isakson, Judd Gregg, Tom Coburn, Ted Stevens, Conrad Burns, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Pat Roberts.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005—CONFERENCE REPORT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent to now proceed to the consideration of the conference report to S. 1932, the omnibus deficit reduction bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. CONRAD. Objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. FRIST. I now move to proceed to consideration of the conference report.

Mr. CONRAD. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senators were necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 86, nays 9, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 361 Leg.]

YEAS—86

Akaka	Domenici	McConnell
Alexander	Dorgan	Mikulski
Allard	Ensign	Murkowski
Allen	Enzi	Nelson (FL)
Baucus	Feinstein	Nelson (NE)
Bayh	Frist	Pryor
Bennett	Graham	Reed
Bingaman	Grassley	Reid
Bond	Gregg	Roberts
Boxer	Hagel	Rockefeller
Brownback	Hatch	Salazar
Bunning	Hutchison	Santorum
Burns	Inhofe	Sarbanes
Byrd	Inouye	Schumer
Carper	Isakson	Sessions
Chafee	Johnson	Shelby
Chambliss	Kennedy	Smith
Coburn	Kerry	Specter
Cochran	Kohl	Stabenow
Coleman	Kyl	Stevens
Collins	Landrieu	Sununu
Conrad	Lautenberg	Talent
Cornyn	Leahy	Thomas
Craig	Levin	Thune
Crapo	Lieberman	Vitter
Dayton	Lincoln	Voinovich
DeMint	Lott	Warner
DeWine	Lugar	Wyden
Dole	Martinez	

NAYS—9

Cantwell	Feingold	Murray
Clinton	Harkin	Obama
Durbin	Jeffords	Snowe

NOT VOTING—5

Biden	Corzine	McCain
Burr	Dodd	

The motion was agreed to.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the conference report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 1932), to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(a) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006 (H. Con. Res. 95), having met, have agreed that the Senate recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the House, and agree to the same with an amendment, and the House agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the proceedings of the House in the RECORD of Sunday, December 18, 2005.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, we are now on the deficit reduction conference report. We have 10 hours of debate, 5 hours equally divided. I know my colleague from North Dakota wants to speak tonight.

Just for the edification of our membership, we will run some time off the clock tonight—I think about 2 hours—and then come back tomorrow and continue the debate and hopefully wrap this up tomorrow.

This bill is a culmination of a lot of work done in the Congress, by the President, and by the Members of the Republican Party, to try to put some discipline into the fiscal accounts of the Federal Government. This bill represents the first time in 8 years that the Federal Government has attempted to control the rate of growth in entitlement spending. People who watch this debate understand this issue, but just to frame it again, Federal Government spending is divided into basically three different areas.

There is interest on debt, which we have virtually no control over.

There is the discretionary spending, otherwise known as the appropriations process, which means every year we spend a certain amount of money. It is really up to us how much we spend, and it is for specific programs. The majority of it goes to the defense spending, but other money goes to education, it goes to environmental issues, it goes to highways—things for which every year we appropriate, saying we are going to spend this much. We can change that number arbitrarily from year to year, and we do.

The third element of Federal spending is called mandatory entitlement spending. This spending occurs as a matter of law because certain people have come to certain situations in their life which allows them to receive a benefit from the Federal Government. They may be veterans who have served us well; they, therefore, get benefits. They may be persons of low income who need assistance, especially a child in a low-income family who needs assistance. They may be a retired citizen who paid into Social Security, who gets health care under Medicare, or a low-income person who gets health care under Medicaid, especially nursing care. These are entitlements. They make up the vast majority of Federal spending. Discretionary spending only makes up 30 percent of the Federal accounts, and half of that is defense spending.

Entitlements are also the fastest growing part of the Federal Government. We know because the baby boom generation is going to retire, and spending on entitlements, specifically on Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, the health care accounts especially, is going to increase radically over the next generation's 30 years as the baby boom generation begins to retire. It is estimated today by the Comptroller General that there is a $44 trillion—that is trillion dollars with a ''T''—$44 trillion unfunded liability, which means we don't know how we are going to pay for it. The obligation is in place already for the cost, primarily for health care programs for retired people who are going to be the baby boom generation.

The practical effect of having that high an obligation out there and unpaid for is our children are going to have to pay the price. The practical effect of that is our children and our children's children, these wonderful young people who work here as pages, when they become earners and have kids of their own are going to have to pay so much to pay for programs which are already on the books to support our generation, the baby boom generation, they are essentially not going to be able to have as high a quality of life as we have. They are not going to be as comfortable in sending their kids to college, buying a car, buying a home, or just doing the day-to-day activities of life because they are going to have to pay a huge tax burden for our generation, unless we do something about it.

That is what this bill is about. For the first time in 8 years, the Federal Government has stepped up and said: We are going try to do something—the Republican side of the aisle—about this huge burden we are going to put on our children through entitlement accounts by addressing those accounts. We have been aggressive on the discretionary side. We have essentially frozen nondiscretionary spending, but on the entitlement side it continues to grow at a dramatic rate. This bill is a step, really