in Missouri; section 341, another environmental rider relative to energy efficiency; and, finally, section 342, the one referred to by the Senator from California, the environmental rider on crude oil and royalty for purposes of the evaluation question?

Mr. GORTON. The Senator from Illinois is correct on all four.

Mr. DURBIN. Out of the 13 objectionable environmental riders, 4 objectionable by the administration, 4 are being stricken by this unanimous consent request, and all others are in the bill for consideration and subject to rule XVI, or any other appropriate motions.

Mr. GORTON. Or any amendment which may be proposed.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Senator from Washington.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I could inquire of the Senator, is the Senator saying that the administration supports the introduction of Grizzly bears into Idaho and the other State?

Mr. DURBIN. I think the administration's concern is that they allow for the first time Governors of these States to dictate the policy on Federal lands.

Mr. LOTT. That sounds like a good idea.

Mr. DURBIN. It depends on your point of view.

At this point, I withdraw any objection to the unanimous consent request. Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, are we waiting on Senator BYRD's arrival?

Mrs. BOXER. It is my understanding, I say to my leader, that he is, in fact, on his way over, and he needs just a couple of minutes. If the leader will, I ask him to delay the unanimous consent request.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I withdraw the formal text of the unanimous consent request by the majority leader, and I will reread it so it is grammatically correct.

I ask consent that the Senate turn to the House Interior bill and, immediately following the reporting by the clerk, Senator GORTON be recognized to offer the text of the Senate-reported bill, as modified, to strike page 116, lines 12 through 18, through page 132, line 20, as an amendment to the House bill. I further ask consent that the amendment be agreed to and the bill as thus amended be considered original text for the purpose of further amendment and that any legislative provision added thereby may nonetheless be subject to a point of order under rule XVI.

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by Title.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2466) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 1357

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, pursuant to the unanimous consent agreement, I send an amendment to the desk and ask that it be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

The Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON] proposes an amendment numbered 1357.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I am pleased to bring before the Senate the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2000. The bill totals $13.924 billion in discretionary budget authority, an amount that is $1.125 billion below the President's budget request and $19 million below the fiscal year 1999 enacted level. The bill fully complies with the spending limits established in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, and the amount provided is right at the subcommittee's 302(b) allocation.

As is always the case, putting this bill together has been a tremendous challenge. While I am extremely grateful that Senator STEVENS, in consultation with Senator BYRD, was able to provide the subcommittee with an increase over its original 302(b) allocation, the amount contained in this bill is still slightly below the fiscal year 1999 enacted level. I wish to point out to my colleagues, however, that this does not mean that delivery of programs can be continued at the current level without holding appropriations even with last year.

The programs funded in this appropriations bill are highly personnel-intensive, supporting tens of thousands of park rangers, foresters, and Indian Health Service doctors. As such, maintaining the level for Federal personnel and increases in rent charged by the General Services Administration—increases over which the subcommittee has no control—place a significant burden on Interior bill agencies. The committee must choose either to provide funds to cover these costs, or require agencies to absorb them by reducing services or finding more efficient ways of delivering programs. For fiscal year 2000, these fixed costs amount to more than $300 million. While the committee has provided increases to cover a majority of this amount by drawing on carryover balances and reducing low priority programs, some agencies will be forced to absorb a portion of their fixed costs.

Given the necessity of funding most fixed costs increases within an allocation that is slightly below the current year level, there is little room in this bill for new programs, existing programs, or additional projects of interest to individual Members. But by terminating low priority programs and making selective reductions in others, we have been able to provide targeted increases for certain high priority programs.

The committee has provided a $70 million increase for the operation of the national park system, including $27 million for construction of concession facilities and budgets of 100 park units. This increase is further indication of the Senate's commitment to preserving and enhancing our national park system while remaining within the fiscal constraints of the balanced budget agreement. The Senate bill puts funding for the operation of our parks at a level fully $277 million higher than the fiscal year 1995 level, and 82 percent over the amount provided a decade ago.

For the other land management agencies, the bill provides an increase of $27 million for the Fish and Wildlife Service, including more than $13 million for the operation of the national wildlife refuge system. The bill increases the Forest Service operating account by $17 million, including significant increases for recreation management, forest ecosystem restoration, and road maintenance. A $22 million increase is provided for management of lands by the Bureau of Land Management, as well as another $5 million increase for payments in lieu of taxes. The amount provided for PILT reflects a continued effort to steadily increase appropriations for this program without harming the core operating programs funded in this bill. Though appropriations for PILT were stagnant throughout the first half of this decade, the amount provided in this bill represents a 28 percent increase over the amount provided in 1995.

Among the programs in this bill that are specifically for the benefit of Native Americans, the committee's top