

## NOT VOTING—4

Allard Landrieu  
Crapo Rockefeller

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—CONFERENCE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY S. 1429

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUNNING). The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 1:06 this afternoon the Senate begin consideration of the reconciliation conference report, notwithstanding the receipt of the papers, and there be 6 hours for debate to be equally divided in the usual form with the vote to occur at the conclusion or yielding back of the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. ROBB. Reserving the right to object, may I ask a question of the majority leader.

Is it the majority leader's intention to return to the underlying bill, the Interior appropriations bill, at the conclusion of consideration of the tax bill today?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, to respond to the Senator's question, it is. When we complete reconciliation, at the conclusion of this 6 hours or yielding back time, which theoretically could occur, then when that is completed our intent is to go back to the Interior appropriations bill.

The agreement we had last week was that this week we would try to complete these two appropriations bills, Agriculture and Interior, complete the reconciliation conference report, and try to get as many nominations confirmed as we could get cleared on both sides.

We are still assiduously pursuing that goal.

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, continuing to reserve the right to object, I ask the majority leader, without specifically asking for an additional unanimous consent request, that if it is his intention to proceed, those of us who have been waiting through two sessions to either raise points of order, offer amendments, or whatever the case may be, to the Interior appropriations bill, might be able to do so tonight after conclusion of this bill. I am in full agreement with the expedition of a number of matters that have been pending on this floor, particularly some of the appointments. While I may not favor the tax bill that will be taken up this afternoon, I am in favor of moving the trains.

With that, if the majority leader is prepared to give that verbal under-

standing his concurrence, I will not object.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I give my concurrence in that. We intend to return to the Interior appropriations bill. I believe the distinguished manager of this legislation would be glad to agree we would go to this issue immediately upon return, with a vote if one is required.

Mr. GORTON. If the majority leader will yield, I would be delighted to have the first item to be dealt with, with respect to the Interior appropriations bill, immediately after the vote on the tax bill, be the point of order the Senator from Virginia wishes to raise.

Mr. ROBB. Will the majority leader include that particular provision in his unanimous consent request?

Mr. LOTT. I am glad to make that additional request in my unanimous consent request.

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

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, to my absolute surprise and delight, I understand the water resources development bill has been completed in conference. I extend my hearty congratulations to the managers and to the distinguished chairman of the committee, Senator CHAFEE, for his efforts in getting that conclusion.

I yield the floor to him for a consent request with regard to that conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to consideration of the conference report to accompany S. 507.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee on conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 507), have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by a majority of the conferees.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of today.)

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the conference report be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statement relating to the conference report be printed in the RECORD.

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

The conference report was agreed to.

Mr. CHAFEE. I thank the majority leader for moving this legislation along, and I thank all concerned.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, as a member of the minority who had the honor to be a conferee, may I say that this legislation of great importance could not have happened in the absence of our chairman. Our chairman did a superb job, never an easy one with the other side. But here it is before us and he is to be congratulated. I, for one, am deeply grateful.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator from New York. He has headed many of these conferences. I particularly recall some of the transportation conferences he has headed in which he did landmark work. Having kind words coming from him and praises is doubly important to me. I greatly appreciate them. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, today the Senate is considering the conference report to accompany S. 507, the Water Resources Development Act of 1999. This measure, similar to water resources legislation enacted in 1986, 1988, 1990 and 1992, is comprised of water resources project and study authorizations, as well as important policy initiatives, for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program.

This bill was introduced by Senator WARNER at the beginning of this year. In previous years, the Senator from Virginia had been the chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee of the Senate. In that role he guided a similar bill through the Senate during the previous Congress. We are very grateful for his hard work on this legislation and sticking with the project considering the new demands on his time as chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

Unfortunately, the House was unable to pass a companion measure last year because of a dispute over flood control and water supply in the State of California. So, this WRDA bill is somewhat overdue.

This year, S. 507 was adopted unanimously by the Senate on April 19, 1999. On April 29 of this year, the House of Representatives adopted its version of the legislation by a vote of 418 to 6.

Since that time, we have worked together with our colleagues from the House of Representatives and the administration to reach bipartisan agreement on a sensible compromise measure. Because of the numerous differences between the Senate- and House-passed bills, completion of this conference report has required many hours of negotiation.

To ensure that the items contained in this legislation are responsive to the nation's most pressing water infrastructure and environmental needs, we have adhered to a set of criteria established in previous water resources law.