

can at least do that and get it cleared. But we do have a problem with objections. We can see if we can get it agreed to, and we can try to get it agreed to, if we can get something worked out that we can offer. Then if it is objected to, we just have to deal with that.

Mr. DASCHLE. I know there are other colleagues who are waiting to do other business. I think we might talk more privately about this and proceed. But I look forward to working with the majority leader to see if we can find a way to deal with it.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. If the leader would yield?

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

Mr. LOTT. There was no objection to that last request?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There was no objection to the last request.

Mr. LOTT. I do have one more request I know the Senator from Alaska is interested in. If the Senator would like to make that request—

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Please proceed.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. 1287

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to S. 1287, the nuclear waste bill.

Mr. DASCHLE. Objection.

Mr. REID. Objection.

Mr. BRYAN. Objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

Mr. LOTT. There was an objection. I believe I still have the floor.

I would be glad to yield for a question or comment.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. It is my understanding, Mr. President, there are a number of Senators who are seeking recognition for items they would like to bring up in morning business. I obviously would like to accommodate them. But I wonder if we could get some idea of who and how many, because obviously I am prepared to start the debate on the nuclear waste bill and want to accommodate Members.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I yield to Senator REID, if he would like to comment.

Mr. REID. I say, through the majority leader, to the Senator from Alaska, Senator DURBIN wishes to speak for 15 minutes and the Senator from Arkansas for 5 minutes. That is all we have until we turn to the matter of the Senator from Alaska.

I ask the Senator from Alaska, in relation to his opening statement, does he have any idea how long he is going to take?

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I have no idea, Mr. President, how long the leadership wants to go today. But I am prepared

to accommodate the interests of the Senate and am also prepared to go at great length. So it might be appropriate if we had some indication of how long the leadership wants this matter debated today because I understand we are going to be going off of it and then back on it.

Mr. LOTT. If I could respond, Mr. President, we do not have a certain time set. I would not want in any way to preclude the Senator from using as much time as he needs.

It sounded to me as if you have about 15 minutes on the other side. You could take the time you need, and when that is completed—I see Senator BYRD may be here and want to speak, too. So as long as Senators are here and wanting to speak, we will continue this afternoon. But if I could—

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

Mr. LOTT. I will be glad to yield to Senator REID.

Mr. REID. I say, through the leader, Senator BYRD is on the floor and he needs 20 minutes, just so the Senator from Alaska would have some idea. And I would think Senator BYRD would speak before Senator DURBIN.

Mr. DURBIN. That is a good idea.

Mr. REID. Although the Senator from Arkansas has agreed to how much time? Five minutes.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the exception of the Senator from Arkansas—I believe she wanted 5 minutes—Senator DURBIN for 15 minutes, Senator BYRD for 20 minutes, and then the Senator from Alaska be recognized after that to discuss the nuclear waste legislation.

Mr. REID. I say to the leader, then after the Senator from Alaska speaks, the two Senators from Nevada may have a couple words to say.

Mr. LOTT. Under this request, they would have 10 minutes. If they need additional time, I don't think anybody is going to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BRYAN. Will the majority leader yield for a question?

Mr. LOTT. I am glad to yield.

Mr. BRYAN. May the Senator from Nevada inquire as to the majority leader's intent? In light of the objection, does the majority leader intend to file a motion to proceed?

Mr. LOTT. Not at this time, although it is my intent, before we go out, to take whatever action is necessary to try to get on to the substance of this bill. But in view of the other things

that are pending, Labor-HHS Appropriations conference report, the trade bill, and, hopefully, bankruptcy, I am not going to file that today.

Mr. BRYAN. I thank the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Reserving the right to object, only to make this point, in the sequence here, if I could amend the unanimous-consent request so the Senator from Arkansas could go first, followed by the Senator from West Virginia. I am happy to be third in the sequence.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

INEFFECTIVENESS OF THE SENATE

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise on behalf of the people of Arkansas to express my extreme disappointment, frustration, and bewilderment with our ineffectiveness in the manipulation of the Senate. Today, I was supposed to be touring the former Eaker Air Force Base site in Blytheville, AR, with numerous officials from the National Park Service as well as other State and local leaders. This is a meeting we have worked on for months to arrange, understanding there might be legislative business today.

The community is united in its effort to have this former military base converted into a Mississippi Valley archeological facility and research center. The benefits this project will bring to northeastern Arkansas are enormous, and I had hoped to be there today to again demonstrate my support to the entire community and the Park Service and to urge a favorable decision by the Park Service.

I also had several other appointments scheduled with various constituents in the State, but I had to cancel all these meetings to be here for scheduled votes. I thought we might vote on key trade initiatives and might even get to an appropriations bill. But these votes are, once again, delayed and may never occur. This is not the first time I have had to cancel meetings or events on critical issues with large groups of constituents in Arkansas to stay in Washington for votes, votes and work that never happened or were simply procedural or partisan. My constituents understand when I have to be in Washington to vote, but what they do not understand and what frustrates me is when I stay in Washington for votes and work that never occur.

I would understand, and would encourage a great deal, if we were delaying debate so Members could travel to Rhode Island to pay tribute to our distinguished former colleague, John