considered, many of which were rejected and are not in this bill that we all considered over this last week.

I do know that Senator Brownback from North Carolina will accept that assurance. I can assure them this is an $81 million item and it is, in my judgment, small compared to the amount of money that will be in the next supplemental for the people who were affected by Hurricane Floyd anyway, so we will make up for this problem. We will make up the money, and we certainly will see to it that it is there.

I plead with the Members of the House to pass the bill tonight. In any event, we will take care of that error as quickly as we can.

Second, with regard to my good friend from West Virginia and his amendment and that of Senator McConnell and the Western Senators, I think there is a clear, growing understanding of the provisions of this amendment. I have been saying, as Senator Byrd has been saying for some time, this does not change existing law. It is an amendment to try to preserve the status quo until Congress has a chance to review the changes that would take place if decisions of the Solicitor's Office and decisions of one Federal judge were followed, which would affect the mining industry of the whole Nation. I hope the House will certainly see fit to send that measure to the President, so we can see what the White House is going to do with that.

But for now, I hope the Senators involved will let us get on with the major bill, which is going to take some time. I again express my regret to the Senators involved that this incident has taken place, and we will do our best to see it does not happen. But the distinguished majority leader reminded me on an amendment that we had on a bill earlier this year, a similar thing happened when there were just too many things going into one bill. Our provision was left out, but it got back in the next bill. I assure you.

Mr. President, I do hope the Senators involved will give us the courtesy now of permitting the Appropriations Committee to present, at last, the omnibus appropriations bill that will fulfill our commitments to pass 13 appropriations bills this year.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I know the Senator from North Carolina might want to make a comment or ask a question at this point. I will be glad to yield the floor to him, or yield for him to do that while retaining the floor.

Mr. EDWARDS. I thank the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. President, the human suffering and devastation we incurred in North Carolina is absolutely unparalleled. Our people have never suffered and struggled the way they are suffering right now. This storm has completely devastated us. Our farmers are in the worst shape they have ever been in.

I appreciate very much the majority leader’s commitment, Senator STEVENS’ commitment, and the minority leader’s commitment. We have talked throughout this process on a daily basis. We had an agreement, a commitment to two things, basically. One was a loan forgiveness program, which has been talked about, and, second, some language that would help the payment for structural damage on farms in North Carolina.

I appreciate very much the commitment we have received today. I do have to say I am counting on my colleagues’ commitments—the majority leader’s commitment, Senator STEVENS’ commitment, Senator Baucus’ commitment—to do everything in their power to get this thing passed in this Congress; that it will be included in the CR we are discussing right now and that, when it goes to the House side, the majority leader will speak to the Speaker. We will do everything in our power, Senator HELMS and myself, to make sure that happens. But it is critical to Senator HELMS and me that we not need to rely on the commitment to do something after the first of the year, that we get this done tonight or tomorrow.

With that, I thank the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. I will say on behalf of Senator HELMS, he has been following this very closely. I have spoken to him, and Senator Edwards has been in constant conversation with him, as has Senator Stevens. He understands what we are talking about, and we have made a commitment to him, which we certainly are going to honor, and to Senator Edwards, that we will pursue this aggressively with the other Chamber. This money is going to be available, hopefully in this CR; if not, the first available vehicle next year.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the conference report to accompany the DC appropriations bill, H.R. 3194, and the conference report be considered as having been read.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. FEINGOLD. I ask for the record.

Mr. LOTT. Is there objection?

Mr. FEINGOLD. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LOTT. I ask that the Senate now proceed to the conference report, and before the clerk begins reading, I announce to my colleagues, Senator KOHL has indicated to me, following the conclusion of the reading, he will insist on the conduct of a rolloff vote on the motion to proceed to the conference report.

Therefore, a procedural rolloff vote will occur at approximately 9:30 this evening.

Mr. FEINGOLD addressed the Chair.

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

The legislative clerk read the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of November 17, 1999.)

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Enzi). Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I believe the regular order is for the vote to begin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Missouri (Mr. Ashcroft), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. Bond), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Brown), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Frist), the Senator from Washington (Mr. Gorton), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. Hutchison), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. McCain), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Smith) are necessarily absent.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. Boxer), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Launtenberg), the Senator from New York (Mr. Moynihan), and the Senator from New York (Mr. Schumer) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 80, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 369 Leg.]

YEAS—80

Abraham
Abaka
Alaska
Aliot
Allard
Alsman
Baucus
Baucus
Bennett
Bingaman
Breaux
Brownback

Bryan
Burns
DeWine
Dodd
Domenici
Durbin
Edwards
Enzi
Enzi
Feinstein
Graham
Gramm

Chafee, L.
Chafetz
Cochran
Collins
Covey
Covey
Craig

Collins

Dodd
Durbin
Edwards
Enzi
Feinstein
Graham
Gramm
Mr. LOTT. I now ask the Senate turn to the adjournment resolution, H. Con. Res. 235, and the request to reconsider the motion to reassemble on the table, all without intervening action or debate. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 235), was agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 235

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That...